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THE CONGLOMERATE

OCTOBER 4, 2013

ADMINISTRATORS LEAVE, NO EXPLANATIONS OFFERED

BY ELLEN ORR, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Earlier this month, Provost and Dean of the College Dr. Mike Hemphill informed President Dr. David Rowe and the faculty of his official resignation from the College, to be effective at the end of this semester.

When asked about the reason for his departure, Hemphill offered no explanation other than it being “a personal decision.” He said that he does not know where he will be working next.

“I’ve really been trying to keep the focus off of my leaving and on the work that we’re doing,” he said.

The search for his replacement has begun, although the job has yet to be posted.

Hemphill is only one of many cabinet members who have left or are leaving their positions at Centenary. Former Vice President for Enrollment Services Monty Curtis left the college in September of this year. On his departure, he offered no comment.

Since 2009, the executive staff, henceforth referred to as the cabinet, was

comprised of six positions. In years since, it has cycled 25 employees in 10 different positions.

Regarding the amount of cabinet

turnover during his administration (August 2009–present), Rowe refused to comment. The Conglomerate was told by External Relations’ Director of Strategic

Communication Dena Pruett that “the President will not discuss personnel issues with students.”

	Incumbent	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
DIRECTOR OF ADMISSIONS	Tim Crowley 2000-2009	vacant	Mickey Quinlan 4/2010-2011	vacant	Gail Roberson 1/2012-4/2013	Tommy Newton 5/2013-present
VP FOR ENROLLMENT SERVICES			Dave Voskuil 2/2010-6/2011	Monty Curtis* 11/2011-08/2013		vacant
PROVOST	Dr. Darrel Colson* 2002-2009	Dr. Dan Keck interim, 2009-2010	Dr. Mike Hemphill* 7/2010-12/2013 successor unknown			
VP FOR STUDENT DEVELOPMENT			Rev. Betsy Eaves* 4/2010–6/2012		Dr. Dan Seymour 7/2012–1/2013	vacant—duties assigned to Provost Hemphill
DEAN OF STUDENTS	David Womack* 2008-2009	Dennis Taylor interim, 2009-2010	Mark Miller 5/2010-present			
VP FOR ADVANCEMENT	Dr. Katherine Fell* 2000-7/2010		Scott Rawles 12/2010-4/2013			position eliminated
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT						Scott Rawles 4/2013-present
ASSOCIATE VP FOR ADVANCEMENT						Fred Landry 4/2013-present
VP FOR FINANCE & ADMIN.	Bill Ballard 2003-2012				Mike Pearson 7/2012-4/2013	Stephanie Owens 4/2013-present
ATHLETIC DIRECTOR	Dr. Tom Tallach 8/2007-10/2010			Dave Voskuil 10/2010-6/2011	Dr. William Broussard 6/2011-3/2012	Ronda Seagraves 8/2012-present



CONGOLESE REVEREND VISITS CAMPUS

BY PARRISH MASTERS

The World House for Social Justice hosted Reverend Mande Muyombo, the Director of Kamina Methodist University, who spoke at a convocation on September 24, 2013 about the importance of including everyone in our prayers.

“He challenged us to think of and pray for others, especially groups like the child soldiers that most of society has given up on,” said economics professor Dr. Harold Christensen. “He said that it was up to people like us to find a way to salvage these otherwise lost lives.”

Moyombo also participated in select class discussions. He spoke in Dr. Chad Fulwider’s History of Terrorism in the Modern West class the day before the convocation.

“Most of his comments focused on recent events, in particular, the events in eastern and south-central Africa that have involved child soldiers,” Fulwider said. “What, for my class, was really useful, was his division of some of the reasons for ‘terrorism,’ such as resource-based and ethnic conflict.”

Tuesday afternoon, after the convocation, Moyombo spoke about the reintegration of child soldiers back into African society and the challenges that arise in the process of raising awareness of African child soldiers. He said that how these child soldiers are approached is crucial to getting them out of the environment they are in.

“Most of them are afraid of coming out,” Moyombo said. “If we fail in our approach, then they can go back. The only way we have to get these child soldiers out is to first build trust, then have them learn a skill that they can use to support themselves and the community, and

we need to acknowledge that they are human, like any of us.”

It is difficult for many of these child soldiers to get an education once they have escaped the soldier environment.

“In the Congo alone, there are about 30,000 child soldiers. We have evidence that some of the child soldiers are recruited as young as seven years old. They cannot go on a normal education path. Many of them will never get a Bachelor’s degree,” Muyombo said.

Students who attended the forum on child soldiers had positive reactions to Muyombo’s insights.

“It was a remarkable experience listening to a man who faced the evils of child slavery and to hear his optimistic views for a better future in the affected nations,” said freshman Patrick Carroll.



ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT: NATALIE HUMBERT

BY CHRISTINE LANGSTON

For many athletes, being a collegiate athlete is their dream, but what happens when that dream gets ripped away? This was the case for gymnast, Natalie Humbert. Although she has recently returned to Centenary for her Junior year, she was forced to leave for a year after her freshman year due to the high expenses of the college.

Two years ago, Natalie was an incoming freshman, excited about being on the gymnastics team and being in college. She had a successful freshman year and even competed the balance beam and the vault for the Ladies as a freshman. When she returned home for summer break, however, she received news from her parents that they could no longer afford for her to go back to Centenary due to how expensive the college is. As you can imagine, she was devastated. “I love Centenary and couldn’t imagine going anywhere else for college,” says Natalie. However, she also realized that if the money wasn’t there then she would simply not be able to go back, unless she was proactive and earned the money herself.

This is exactly what she did. She worked several jobs over the course of the next year and a half in order to save up enough money to afford to come back to Centenary, and worked with the people in financial aid to get her a large financial aid package since she is no longer dependent on her parents. So although she had to give up her sophomore year of competing, she is back for her junior year and is very excited about it. “I just feel at home here. I visited one time last year and it felt like I had come home, not like I had left it, so I knew I was meant to come back,” states Natalie. She also says that “I am so glad to be hitting it in the gym again with my team and I am loving it more than ever!”

So student athletes, if you find yourself in a similar situation, think creatively and don’t give up on your dream of competing in college just because a number tells you that you can’t do it. Stick with it, work hard, and never give up, because it will all be worth it.

TENNIS COACH STORY

BY CHRISTINE LANGSTON

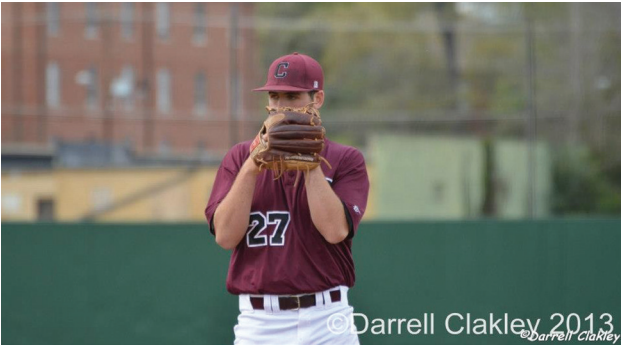
The Men’s and Women’s Tennis teams hired a new head coach at the start of this year. His name is Greg Owens and comes from Shorter University in Rome, Georgia after improving their golf teams drastically. Their Women’s team was number one in the country, and the Men’s team was top 10. He will tell you that his success comes from his recruiting technique. He spends most of his time on recruiting websites and calling potential recruits. He already has several recruits for next year lined up, and has two white boards in his office with all of their names, and if they are coming to visit soon he writes the date next to the athlete’s name and then puts a round magnet next to it so it stands out. He has a very open philosophy towards recruiting in that if one of the current student athletes on either of his teams comes to him after a recruit visits and tells him that they don’t feel the person would be a good fit, then he doesn’t continue to pursue them. He feels that the athletes should have a voice in choosing their future team and building the legacy of their team.

Coach Owens is a very personable man and is very easy to talk to. He says he loves Centenary and the athletic community here because he can really tell that everyone cares about the college and the students. He can tell how motivated the athletes are, not only in the gym but also in their academics. He states that he loves being around smart and motivated athletes because “if you are smart, you are coachable.”

The Tennis teams’ seasons are in the Spring and I have the feeling that they are going to be very successful thanks to the dedication and motivation of their new head coach.

MCFARLAND

BY BRITNEY THOMAS



Going into a practice last year, now senior Jake McFarland never imagined he would end up having an injury that would force him to sit out a good portion of his senior year and not recover until, hopefully, February.

McFarland, a pitcher on the team, had a slight labrum tear in his shoulder from throwing a bullpen during the 2012-2013 year. A bullpen gives a pitcher a chance to practice his pitching. It is, essentially, throwing your pitches to a catcher without a hitter there.

McFarland is expecting to recover by next February, so that he can return to play his final season on the Centenary baseball team at his fullest. As for incoming freshmen, McFarland gives the advice to stretch and get a good warm up before throwing at your hardest.

THE CONGLOMERATE

... STAFF ...

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Ellen Orr

EDITORIAL STAFF

Reily Cook
Amanda Currier
Olivia Johnson
Christine Langston
Parrish Masters
Adam Stephens

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Tyler Sanders
Hannah Still
Claire Matthews
Alexander Thomas
Britney Thomas

PHOTOGRAPHER

Amanda Currier

LAYOUT DESIGNER

Gina Vaca Loyola

CIA FINALLY ESCAPES ALIEN MIND CONTROL, CONFIRMS EXISTENCE OF AREA 51

BY OLIVIA JOHNSON

On August 15, 2013, as new students were gearing up to move into their new homes at Centenary, the CIA was boldly going where it hadn’t gone before. The existence of Area 51 was confirmed in the declassification of a document that details the history of the U-2 spy plane, a device created during the Cold War to hold a camera and to take pictures of the enemy. But, unfortunately, nothing else was. But what really is Area-51?

According to an article on the online news hot spot Gizmodo, the release of a 1992 CIA document and subsequent report entitled “The Secret History of the U-2” by the National Security Archive at George Washington University, describes the process by which the US Government chose the desolated area we know as Area 51 to host covert tests of the U-2 and inadvertently reveals Area 51 as real. However, Gizmodo’s link to the official report leads only to a Page Not Found error. Coincidence? Yes. Upon further Googling, the report is easily found, as is the lengthy document that holds the sacred information, marked as approved for release on June 25, 2013. Much to the dismay of sci-fi hopefuls

everywhere, however, the document leaves much to be desired regarding what is actually in Area 51.

According to the CIA, the reason for such confidentiality regarding the Area seems to be to protect intelligence on the U-2 as information on espionage during the Cold War was highly sensitive. In order to avoid being seen, the planes had to fly at 60,000 feet and above, an unheard of altitude in the mid-1950s. The unexpected sighting of these flying objects at very far off distances appears to explain the supposed UFO sightings in this area.

Though the CIA document appears to dispel rumors of UFOs fairly logically, the document is still somewhat redacted. Americans are left to wonder what lies behind the blanks. The question begs to be asked, “Why now?” The report states that such confidential activity occurred between 1954 and 1974, but if this is true, why was the report not written until 1992? Why did the CIA wait over a decade to reveal it? Even if all hope is lost on the existence of aliens, it just may be that our government is using this revelation to hide something even bigger.

AN OPEN LETTER TO PRESIDENT ROWE

September 23, 2013

President Rowe,

I am writing to appeal to you to clearly announce to the entire Centenary community your decision regarding the Paris First Year trip. I hear some reports in which it appears the decision has been made, others that it is still under study. From two different committees the impression was not just that the decision to go has been made, but the term “non-negotiable” seemed to describe the strength of the decision. In other forums, listeners have been assured that the question of going is still open and all of the possibilities are still being considered. I suspect that you know what the decision is and that the decision is in favor of taking the first year class to Paris; all I am asking here is that you let us know as soon as possible.

My concern is that the faculty is fractured on this issue. There are some who support the plan and are working to prepare courses and itinerary to make it successful. There are some who have a large number of questions and are willing to continue studying the idea but want their questions addressed. There are others who are opposed to the whole idea. All are being distracted by the uncertainty surrounding this decision. I have suspected that part of your leadership style is to divide us, you have most certainly succeeded in this case. An honest announcement would allow all three groups to move on and more importantly return to concentrating on our current classes and developing yet another curriculum for future classes. I, personally, would like to see others share in the search for workable alternatives that confront our significant retention problem.

Personally, I have been running numbers for the past few weeks and have yet to come up with a realistic economic scenario that passes even a minimal cost-benefit test. There has been no public discussion of how this would be financed. It is not reassuring that you have failed to get a budget for most of your time here. The faculty has seen your refusal to find relatively small sums of money to fund research and merit raises. The staff has, not only, been subjected to years with no raises but the added burden of taking on additional responsibilities as you have slashed budgets. Now, in just a few weeks, you have found what I estimate to be about \$300,000 in the current budget for this project. This is both mind-boggling and fiscally irresponsible. Additionally, I observe that the implied budget implications for next year far outstrip your projections for new students and decreased discount rates.

It would help the entire campus community if you would announce what we are going to do.

Harold Christensen



LOCK YOUR DOORS, AND HIDE YOUR VALUABLES! PANTY RAIDER ON LOOSE!

BY PARRISH MASTERS

In early September, a thief struck on the 2nd floor of James Annex. A ransom note, accompanied by a picture of the victim’s black boxers, held at the mercy of a scissors’ sharp blades, was tacked onto the door of one of the residents on the second floor of James Annex.

It read, “Leave \$10 under [the] red couch in the Santé study room or the panties get it!” It was signed by the mysterious “Purple.”

“When I found out my underwear was stolen, I was disturbed ... My biggest question was, how did they get my underwear, and why did they take it? Did they need some, or do they have a crush on me and thought taking my underwear would get my attention?” says Cole Davidson, the victim of the unsettling thievery.

Once the note was discovered, the victim went door-

to-door trying to track down who robbed him of his undergarments.

“He went around that night waking all of us up, just to ask if we stole his stupid underwear,” says one resident of James Annex’s second floor.

“I began roaming the halls of the second floor of James Annex, questioning people,” says the victim.

The culprit, Purple, has yet to be identified, and no reward has been issued for him or her to come forward. Residents are advised to be cautious when visiting the laundry-mat and to lock their doors during the night or when their rooms are left vacant. It is not known whether or not the exchange for the undergarments was carried out.

“If I do get my underwear back, I will be burning them right away, because I do not know what kind of sick and twisted things Purple has done to or with my underwear,” says the victim.

EDITORIAL: ALWAYS WEAR A HAT TO THE PARTY

As a Centenary student, we, I have a bone to pick... with boners. New students, no doubt coming from high schools with uptight, abstinence only sex education programs, may be pleasantly surprised to find that Centenary provides free condoms for all students. Returning students, however, may recall past issues with said condoms.

Condom dispensers can be found in each residence hall laundry room. The dispensers, however, leave room for ill-willing persons to damage the condoms inside; holes poked in condoms and soap poured in dispensers are two reported accounts from last year. This semester, the staff (likely weary from dealing with issues in the past), has filled the dispensers to about 30% at most, one source says, causing condoms to disappear relatively quickly due to the low stock.

Perhaps this is because many students are taking too many condoms to ensure safety when a sexual encounter does occur or perhaps one person on campus is incredibly protected. Either way, the condoms aren't always available to everyone. Luckily, no reports of abuse have been cited yet, but our system of distribution is still fatally flawed.

Last spring, Boston College, a Jesuit school, forbade their Students for Sexual Health organization from issuing condoms to students. Considering Centenary's own religious affiliations, we are clearly lucky to have condoms available to us at all. But why should we use a

system that doesn't work?

A method that appears to work in other schools across the country is keeping condoms for the taking at any time in various offices on campus – student health services, counseling department, residence life, etc.

Another possible solution could be a recurring condom day; students could volunteer to take posts in various spots on campus and hand out as many condoms as students want to take. Putting condoms in the hands of the students ensures at least the possibility of protection and the prevention of public supplies being taken advantage of.

Both of these solutions, however, require students to own up to the possibility of engaging in sexual activity, something that potentially embarrasses some them. To those students I can say only this: stop and realize that you are a person. People have sex and it is nothing to be embarrassed about. If Centenary is the open and tolerable environment that it claims to be, no one should have to worry about others judging them for being sexually active.

No solution may be perfect, but something needs to change. Centenary is letting its students stay susceptible to irresponsible sexual behavior.

Always be prepared, always be protected.



TO THE FRESHMEN, FROM A SENIOR

BY CHRISTINE LANGSTON

Ah, to be a freshman again . . . fresh and excited to start college and meet new people, still naive as to what college is really like. This column is to help freshmen realize that every piece of pre-college advice people give them should be taken to heart. It may all be cheesy, but take it from me – it's true.

The first thing I have to say is the most important one: get organized! Buy an agenda if you haven't already, and write down all of your assignments and tests from all of your syllabi. Make lists of everything you have to do each day and cross them off when you finish them (and don't forget to include some "me" time in those lists). This will help you get everything done while also helping you feel less overwhelmed because you will be able to see what you've accomplished each day.

The second most important thing to remember is to always go to class. While college is hard, it is not nearly as difficult if you actually show up to class and pay attention. Missing one or two classes is sometimes inevitable, but save skipping class for emergencies (and no, having gone to bed at 3a.m. and wanting more sleep is not an emergency; you did that to yourself). Another thing that is a huge help is getting to know your professors. Introduce yourself to them so they know who you are. If you do poorly on an assignment or test, go talk to them in their office and ask how you can improve or study better next time. That way, at the end

of the semester, if you are borderline passing or failing (or sometimes just borderline A or B), the professor can put a face to a name and is more likely to help you out and bump you up. If you are just another grade in their grade book, they won't care as much.

If you have decided on a major, don't be afraid to change it. And if you haven't decided on one yet, don't rush into a decision simply because your parents want you to be a doctor. Study what you want, not what everyone else wants for you. If you want to be an artist or a writer, go for it. Don't let mom or dad or grandma or whomever tell you to be anything else, because you won't enjoy your schoolwork, and consequently, you will do worse on assignments. (Also, register for classes as soon as your time slot is available so that you'll have more options.)

Get involved with campus life. Not only is it more fun and a better college experience, but studies have also shown that students who are more involved do better in their classes. At the same time, learn to budget your time and money. Don't join 18 different organizations that all ask for 20 hours a week and \$100 each. Trust me: your parents will not be happy you have done so, and you will feel incredibly overwhelmed.

When you do start to get stressed (because it happens to the best of us), take 30 minutes and go for

a walk or a jog in the fitness center, or even just around our beautiful campus. And every day, eat right. Not only will you not gain the "Freshman 15," but you will also feel better and perform better in class. Get enough sleep regularly. The occasional all-nighter is okay, but don't make a habit of doing that. And, for your safety, keep DPS's phone number programmed into your phone; it may come in handy.

Lastly, take your laundry out of the laundry machines when the time is up, not 45 minutes later. Set an alarm on your phone and be ready, because if you aren't, chances are someone else is, and they will show your clothes no mercy. Not only is it rude of you to leave your clothes in the machines, but you will pay, as they will more than likely get taken out of the machine and thrown on the floor or on top of a washing machine covered in detergent.

Okay, I know I said lastly on the last one, but this is really a "lastly": Have fun! College is an amazing experience. While you may get super stressed and homesick and occasionally want to give up, stick it out and get to know as many people as you can, because we are all in the same boat, and if we are paddling in the same direction, we can help each other get to where we need to be.

A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

BY ELLEN ORR, EDITOR -IN-CHIEF

A few weeks ago, I was asked to fill out a survey about my “Centenary experience.” The survey was for an ad agency that the school has hired to help increase our enrollment. The survey asked about why I chose Centenary, why I’ve stayed, what makes us different from other schools, and what Centenary could do to improve my experience and education.

Answering these questions, I felt incredibly conflicted. On one hand, Centenary has caused me a lot of grief. I disagree with so much of what this administration stands for. I haven’t been in any campus organization (until The Conglomerate, of course) that’s made me feel at-home. I’ve made many more enemies than I have friends.

But I also really and truly love Centenary. This is my second home, covered in azaleas and screwy sprinklers. My professors are my mentors, heroes, and confidants—and biggest cheerleaders. I’ve met some of the most magnificent people here—a few of them students, some of them alumni or friends of the College, most of them faculty or staff. I strongly believe in the quality of education I’m receiving, and I love few things more than giving campus tours to prospective families. I adore this place.

So filling out a survey about my “experience” was hard to do. What tone do I use? Do I focus on the good or the not-so-good? Is it appropriate to mention my least favorite aspects of Centenary, even though their inclusion may overshadow my fan-girl puppy love for this place?

I ended up just being my most genuine self. When asked about my experience with student organizations, I was straight-up: most of the ones I’ve been in have been disastrous. When asked what sets Centenary apart from other schools, I answered easily: the student-teacher relationships. When asked for three words to describe my Centenary experience: “relationships, challenge, leadership” (these three only came about after I typed and deleted “controversy, hypocrisy, frustration,” but you know—whatever it takes).

At the beginning of the semester, I was eating breakfast at Strawn’s with a Centenary staff member, and we were discussing Centenary politics and proactive solutions to some of campuses toughest problems. At one point, we talked about the “right way” to go about vocalizing complaints. It’s hard, we noted, to effectively express your problems without sounding whiny. And, if you sound hell-bent and angry and present no possible solution, nobody will heed your advice. We concluded that it’s important to pick your battles, to offer viable alternatives to whatever you’re fussing about, and (most importantly, I think) to come at the issue from a stance of love: don’t criticize the administration’s policies because you’re mad at the administration. Instead, criticize the administration’s policies because you see the harm they’re doing to the college you adore.

As the new editor-in-chief of this paper, I’m always reminding myself to approach journalism from a position of care and kindness. Of course, being caring (and careful) and kind doesn’t always mean pussyfooting around the issues; on the contrary, it usually if not always means telling the whole truth and nothing but. It also means, though, that our truth-telling should always be motivated by a desire to better the school—never to harm her.

My goals for The Conglomerate this year are simple: to produce a good newspaper, to keep my staff happy, and to tell the truth well—knowing that the truth has the power to reshape, enhance, and enrich “the Centenary experience,” as long as it’s used responsibly.

On behalf of the whole staff, I thank you for reading this issue of The Conglomerate. We hope you enjoy and learn from it—but if you hate it, that’s fine too (we’re just glad you’re reading it): lay it on me at eorr@my.centenary.edu.

Ellen Orr, Editor-in-Chief

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS ZANDER WINSTON?

BY OLIVIA JOHNSON

Rumor has it that Zander Winston is set on joining the tennis team this year, but he’s been missing from practice all semester and the Centenary tennis team is worried!

Readers are probably wondering: why in the world would Zander join the tennis team, and why is it such a big deal? Well, up until now Zander played golf for Centenary and has recently decided he is so good he should try to transfer to a division one school. Instead of transferring right away, Zander has decided to “redshirt.” For those of us outside the sports universe, redshirting simply means taking a year off from competing with a team simply to practice; this works because the NCAA allows athletes five years to play for four. Unfortunately because this practice is only allowed in divisions one and two schools and Centenary is a division three school, Zander must officially remove his name from the golf team’s roster in order to redshirt

Zander is supposedly still practicing five hours a day as though he were still on the team in order to fully utilize his year off before transferring to his new, still unknown, division one home. When asked about his choice to leave Centenary, Zander said, “I don’t see that drive at Centenary as I feel I would at other schools from many athletes.” But Zander apparently sees more zeal for sports from Centenary athletes than he lets on since he has decided to join yet another Centenary team. But where has he been?

Zander, where are you? The tennis team is on our knees, pleading... Come to us Zander, we clearly need you!

CENTENARY BOOKSTORE EQUALS CENTLESS STUDENTS

BY HANNAH STILL

Upon buying the wrong book for my Philosophy class this semester, I didn’t initially panic that I had wasted roughly forty bucks. I figured I could sell it back to the bookstore and I’d have a decent amount leftover, even though it wouldn’t be the same amount I initially invested.

However, the outrage and irritation I encountered upon trying to sell it to our own Centenary bookstore left me seething. Do you know how much the website offered me for my book? Three lousy stinkin’ dollars. I can’t even buy lunch with that! All I could think as I sat in front of my laptop with my now useless book in my lap was how I’d been so gypped. This store wants to sell us books at ridiculous prices,

much higher than that of online stores, but when I want to sell this philosophy book to them all they have to offer me is three hundred pennies? Not only that, but they’re going to turn around and sell it to some other poor sap for at least ten times what they’d be willing to give me for the useless book.

College students already have no money as it is, between lab fees and piles of textbooks. It’s as if the tuition we paid at the beginning of this year is going to nothing because the bookstore just wants to cling onto every student it can and suck money out of buyers like some sort of cash-hungry succubus. I hate to break it to you, Centenary Bookstore, but this is Shreveport, Louisiana, not Wall Street. I don’t know about others but I can assure you none of my books or money will be going to the bookstore this semester



AMANDA CURRIER

unless something about these buyback prices changes. Until then I’ll be selling the books I don’t need on Amazon. Who’s with me?

AHOUSE

The World Houses program aims to help students engage in community service coupled with solving one of the three 21st century problems (as explicated by the administration): “expanding our circle,” “creating a sustainable world,” and “living a meaningful life.” The World Houses are Peace, Sustainability, and Social Justice. Each World House engaged in community service during orientation with a community partner: Community Renewal International, Shreveport Green, and The Fuller Center, respectively.

“The World House for Sustainability aims to inspire Centenary students to rise up to the challenge of living a sustainable life and accepting the responsibility of ensuring a successful future for posterity.” -Simone Byrd

“I think that the World Houses are a great idea to encourage community. It’s especially helpful for freshmen to have a sense of belonging.” -Allie Hornsby

“I think it’s a good idea to have them because it gathers people so it can create friendship.” Jade Beuscart



PRO: WORLD HOME

BY CLAIRE MATHEWS

College, to me, is not just higher learning but also an opportunity to step outside oneself and become part of something bigger. I knew at the end of my senior year, when I was choosing where to obtain my undergraduate degree and hopefully become fully formed as a person, that I belonged in an institution that values more than just earning a degree. In the end, I chose Centenary because it has a reputation for putting a strong emphasis on gaining worldly experiences and helping others. This is what I was looking forward to when entering my freshman year, and from my first day on Centenary’s campus, my hopes came true.

I connected so quickly to my classmates and neighbors in Cline and the World House for Peace. Though most of the students I was suddenly thrust into sharing personal living space with were completely new to me, by the second day of orientation, I felt like we’d been friends since kindergarten. Because Centenary surveyed its students regarding their values prior to arranging living assignments, everyone within close proximity to me held the same issues to heart and truly cared about making a difference.

Being able to dive so immediately into community service with Community Renewal International at the Querbes House helped make me aware of the challenges we face in the Shreveport area and realize that I am not afraid to get my hands dirty trying to make it a better place. Even better, I recognized the same passion in almost everyone else I worked with that day. Our shared goal allows us to coexist and collaborate in both academic and social situations, embodying the very idea of Peace in our own little community.

Before I came to Centenary, I had always thought about making a difference; enacting change had always been a goal, but a lofty one with no clear path to achievement. But now that I’m here, I have no choice but to make a difference. Centenary forces us to get out and get involved in the community around us. That is what I love about our school and about the World Houses program. It is so easy to stay in our own little niches on campus, leaving only to make the occasional trek to Walmart, but Centenary’s emphasis on community involvement makes it so easy, so there’s no reason not to get involved.

I know that when I graduate, I will be thankful that Centenary pushed me so hard to make my own impact on the world. The World Houses program couldn’t have worked out better for me.

DIVIDED

CON: FAILED HOUSES

BY BRITTNEY THOMAS

Dumbledore. Gryffindor. Slytherin. Harry Potter. Hufflepuff. Sorting Hat. Ravenclaw. This is how I was at first pulled into the idea of the World Houses. Mark Miller made it sound a lot like the infamous houses in the Harry Potter series, each dorm being a house that would have a different mission and sometimes be in “competition.” In this context, World Houses sound fun and exciting; who wouldn’t want a chance to be similar to Harry Potter? I quickly figured out, however, that our World Houses, however, turned out to be nothing magical.

Beginning with the Fall 2013 semester, freshman students live with other students who all hold the same values, as determined by a survey. Centenary is a school known for trying to be diverse, but if they are requiring students to surround themselves with people who all have the same ideals, how is diversity encouraged at all? Being a liberal arts school, one of our main goals is, supposedly, to make each student whole—not to impose on them one of the three “21st Century Initiatives” that were determined by the administration.

Even if this “World House” idea was consistent with our liberal arts status, its implementation and overall design is flawed. For instance, after freshman year, students can choose to live with other students that have the same perspective as themselves, but it is not required. Our school has spent a good amount of time determining which students would be best suited for each house, but after freshman year, it’s over. It takes time to actually make a change with anything, and a year is not enough time.

Still, I was hopeful that just maybe, the World Houses had a chance for success. Then we went to our first (and thus far only) event.

My dorm, James, is the World House for Social Justice. So we were sent to clean classrooms that are used for tutoring at the Highland Center. I enjoy volunteering and helping the less fortunate, but this excursion was very awkward and also wasn’t exactly what I expected. We were bombarded with uncomfortable eye contact and preaching by the leader of the Fuller Center, our community partner.

Yes, cleaning classrooms is helpful and yes, it could be fun; yet when I imagined plans for our World Houses, I thought of things bigger than simply cleaning—like hands-on activities where we would actually interact with people and see the difference we were making.

I’m not saying the World Houses are a bad idea



overall, because the concept itself is not what is flawed; plenty of colleges have residence programs similar to Centenary’s. But those institutions have made their

programs succeed and even thrive, while we have failed to make ours work for this community.



“I don’t see any real structure or ideas in the program to truly make it meaningful to me.” -Tamara Johnson

“Not everyone cares enough about it to take the time to participate, and that is a setback.” -Laura Sorkey

“The World Houses are very counterproductive because no one has mentioned what they are or what their purpose is.” -Kayla Evans

REV. ROBE.

BY HANNAH STILL

This year Centenary College has chosen a new chaplain to give spirituality to our official functions, such as convocations. I sat down with Valerie Robideaux to talk about her experiences so far as head chaplain and what she hopes to achieve in years to come.

How did you become interested in becoming our school's chaplain? : Being chaplain of Centenary was never something I imagined! After being asked to consider assuming that role, I spent a lot of time in prayer and reflection. I am excited to serve my alma mater as Chaplain, and I am beginning to find my own voice in this role. It has been an adventure so far, and I look forward to the many adventures ahead!

What is the process of becoming head chaplain? : It depends on the institution and its particular denominational affiliation. For Centenary, it was a conversation between the school and the Louisiana Conference of The United Methodist Church. As an ordained clergy person in The United Methodist Church, I am eligible to serve in this capacity if both parties approve. At Centenary, we don't really have a "head" chaplain. We just have the one, but fortunately we have involved other areas within Student Development with religious life on campus. Justin Kirkes, Residence Life Coordinator, works with student religious life programming and Nicole Rapagnani with Global Engagement is coordinating the mission opportunities. This fall, we are traveling to Moore, Oklahoma to help with tornado recovery. For more information, check out the missions page on MyCentenary. ;-)

How does your role as chaplain relate to your work with discernment? : I began working at Centenary with the Christian Leadership Center, which engages both an element of chaplaincy with discernment in a very holistic way. I think the main similarity is acknowledging the importance of listening. I think both being Chaplain and guiding students in the professional discernment process is being accessible and willing to listen and meet students where they are. I believe it is important to hear what others have to say and provide



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the opportunity for discovery. In addition, I think both discernment and chaplaincy is about helping people discover and reach their potential. This is certainly a passion of mine- stemming from my own student experience at Centenary.

Is the title of chaplain usually predominately male? : I suppose it has traditionally been a predominately male title since pastoral leadership has historically been male. However, in my own experience, most of the chaplains I have known have been female. I am thankful for the role models these chaplains have served and the impact they have had on my life. It is an adjustment for some people to have a female chaplain. For instance, I was recently given a boutonniere to wear for a wedding I officiated. I was told the wedding florist mistakenly assumed I was male based on my title. I have to say that was a first, but I wore it proudly as a symbol of broken barriers!

What's the most exciting thing you've done so far as chaplain? : Aww- it is so early to answer that question! Well, I haven't been chaplain very long, but I immensely enjoyed giving the invocation and benediction at President's Convocation. It was an honor, and a



challenge, to share a prayer on behalf of our incredibly diverse community. I hope I spoke to the spirit and needs of the community sufficiently! #centenaryproud

How has being chaplain enriched your life and the lives of others? : I hope this question is still being answered! I am humbled by the opportunity to serve as chaplain and it is yet to be seen how lives are enriched. I know my life has been enriched by the presence of our former chaplain, Betsy Eaves. Luckily, she has been my mentor for the past 11 years, so I have learned so much from walking alongside her! A friend and colleague recently encouraged me by saying, "You are a reverend of your own style." This statement has propelled me forward as I lean into everything "chaplain" means. I know my life will be enriched from being present with people, listening and learning from students and colleagues, and having the unique opportunities to share moments of celebration and grief with our community. I hope to enrich the lives of others by being vulnerable to God and to our community- open to listening, informing people that they are loved, and reminding us all that we are to take care of one another.

CERTAIN DEATH AWAITS JAMES HALL RESIDENTS

BY OLIVIA JOHNSON

Thirty-one residents climb the stairs to the second floor of James Annex every day. Many more likely visit the second floor occasionally. Many, perhaps, have wondered where the mysterious third flight of stairs in the main Annex stairwell leads... But few have dared to discover the truth.

The Residence Life page of Centenary's website clearly lists James Hall as having only two floors; no students live on a third floor, no amenities are available on a third floor, and no evidence of a third floor exists anywhere in any literature on Centenary or its residence halls. So what is Centenary hiding from the residents of James Annex?

Perhaps the third floor of James Annex is where

failed students go to wallow in shame and self-pity or perhaps it is where professors with intense dedication to Centenary go to retire. Regardless of theories reasonable or unreasonable, one group of students, who shall for their own safety remain nameless, recently embarked on a mission to bust the myth of James Annex's third floor.

Upon climbing the strange third flight of stairs, the students discovered only a locked door. "We said, "This isn't an answer and this won't be accepted'," one student says about the revelation. After many trials and errors, the students finally, with some creative coaxing, unlocked the door to the third floor.

"We won't tell you what we did... Like on TV specials about meth, they don't give you the exact



OLIVIA JOHNSON

recipe," one student says. "No one else needs to see what we saw," another asserts.

What those students saw, no one will ever know. However, it is clear that the third floor of James Annex is open only to those students wishing to die a most painful death.

HER VOICE CARRIES

BY TYLER SANDERS

Twyla Robinson is a Centenary alumnus who has unleashed her powerful Soprano voice across the world. From singing in the Sydney Opera House, to winning an Operatic Singing Competition in Dresden; she has shared her talent with the world and now she is molding a new generation of singers.

What would you have done if your voice had gone out during your career?

Twyla Robinson: I would have been a French Horn player. That was my major when I was here.

Have you always wanted to teach?

TR: No, but Horace English had retired, and they wanted to make Opera Singer’s Workshop more close to Music Theater and Singer’s Workshop, I had a few holes in my schedule so I thought how cool would this be?

What is it like being back at Centenary?

TR: My practice ethic has come up quite a bit, and the smell of the music building is like an old fire horse. I come in and smell the smell of the music building, it’s like no other smell and it puts my brain into this practice head.

How has being from Baton Rouge, and growing up around Gospel music impacted the way you sing?

TR: I do have certain abilities in my singing that I have because I grew up listening to Gospel music. That sort

of improvisatory.. certain physical commitment to the singing that Gospel people understand down to their bones. Sometimes there are places in my music where that definitely helps.

In one interview you spoke of the Marschallin character, that all women could relate to. What did you mean?

TR: The character Marshcallin is her title, and it is the opera Der Rosenkavalier by Richard Straus. She is called the Marschallin because her husband is the field



KRISTIN HOEBERMANN

marshal. This opera was set in the War of Succession in Austria because they did not want to have a female Empress. And in war, the field marshal is always gone, so you bring young men into your boudoir to keep things going. Eventually, she figures out she has to give her young lover up to someone more age appropriate, and she comments on the passing of time and the loss of beauty.



FIRST YOU, THEN THE WORLD

BY TYLER SANDERS

Our own government has been developing machines that are right out of the Terminator, except this time it’s real. This is one of the newest fights Jody William’s has chosen to battle and it is closer to reality than you think.

Not only is our government developing completely autonomous lethal machines to use for warfare, but countless other countries are all over the world. While the serious issues that arise from the use of these are to be decided personally. It is a universal truth that it is unacceptable to give the power of life and death to a machine.

Not only would these machines be holding a

human’s life in their hands, but the ease that they would allow for countries, and the US to go to war would be astronomical. Even now we are allowing drone strikes on countries we are not in any conflict with. The fact that there is no national discussion on war, is disheartening. Jody Williams agrees with this sentiment as well.

These fully autonomous and lethal machines are being called the bloodless future of modernized war fare. That statement is true in the fact that we will spill no blood, but our “enemies” will.

These machines are being produced to handle a variety of terrains, and some are even anthropomorphic. One specific robot is named Atlas, and Jody Williams joked that, “it had the glowing red eyes of Terminator”.

Jody William’s introduced herself through a series of stories about how she got started fighting for world peace, how she won a Nobel Peace Prize and how she gets started on each new endeavor she fights for.

Jody William’s first effort to create a world filled with peace permeating throughout it was to eradicate the use of anti-personel land mines in countries all over the world. She has recruited over a thousand people over the globe to further the fight.

When her campaign began to get media coverage, she was shocked that she was the one being interviewed. She was not the only person on the team. This shock and dislike of the spotlight she said, comes from her being more naturally inclined to the introvert side of personality.

Jody Williams is in a different category of women, as she is one of 44 women to receive a Nobel Peace Prize. Jody William’s also created an international committee that supports various women’s aids groups around the world. This committee also works on creating sustainable peace throughout the earth.

Jody William’s said that “when this committee came to fruition, for once, my Peace Prize meant something to me.”

Jody explained the process on how she begins fighting for a new cause. She hears something that completely overwhelms her morality and ethics to the point of in-action. However, every time she looks in the mirror she hates herself because she is not taking action. This self-hate is sublimated into action and she fights and talks to whoever will listen until something is started.



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MUSICALS RETURN TO CENTENARY

BY AMANDA CURRIER

The Hurley School of Music and Theatre Department at Centenary have partnered up to revitalize musical theater starting this fall. “The two departments have joined forces to offer students the opportunity to perform a musical during each academic year,” commented Professor Don Hooper Chair of the Theatre and Dance Department. “Dr. Odom has graciously added Dr. Ronald Bermingham to the music faculty, and he will direct the coming show with the assistance of our artist-in-residence, Twyla Robinson.

Musical theatre has had a rich history at Centenary College, but due to various budget concerns and other community theaters offering musical productions, Professor Hooper had reduced the number of musicals performed on campus. “We didn’t stop producing musicals because we weren’t interested,” he said. “We stopped so we could serve our students in the best way.”

So, what inspired this collaboration between departments to take place? “This addition is due to the strong leadership of Dr. Gale Odom and her desire to offer the students the best possible performance opportunities. Both departments are keenly focused on creating an environment of performance where students can develop their talents, pursue their passions, and increase their skills. Musical theatre fits well within that focus,” said Professor Hooper.

The appointment of Dr. Ron Bermingham, a seasoned musical theatre performer and music director, has allowed the theater department to showcase five shows this season. “Our new initiative is about getting more and more students to move between the music and theatre areas,” said Dr. Gale Odom, Dean of the Hurley School of Music. “In the future, we hope to have many more theatre students taking music lessons and many more music students taking theatre classes, in a cross-pollination that will strengthen both areas.” Bermingham agrees. “The more comprehensive your training, the better your chances for finding employment.”

Our Artist-in-Residence, Twyla Robinson, will also help support the multidisciplinary genre of musical theatre this fall. She is currently working with students this fall in our redesigned ‘Opera Workshop’ course, now called the “Singers’ Workshop,” which will focus on teaching stagecraft that singers need in a wide variety of performance genres and will help prepare the students for future musical theatre or opera productions.

Urinetown, a musical based on the book by Greg Kotis, music by Mark Hollmann, and lyrics by Holmann and Kotis, is scheduled to be performed in Anderson Auditorium in the spring and will run February 6-9.

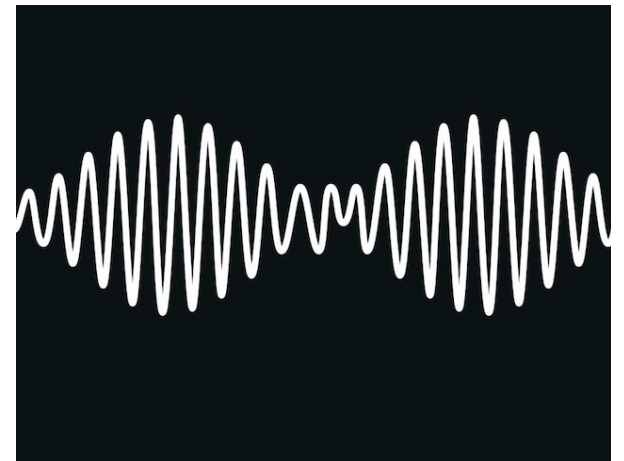
an admiration for the paintings she’d been introduced to, Maggie became a bona fide oil painter. In fact, she’s found it even works better than charcoal for one of her central themes: religion. “When you put the paintbrush down, there aren’t distinct lines. Colors blend and flow,” she says. This expression also helps communicate her other major subject: the beauty of nature and the environment. But despite the success painting seems to have given her, the Art Major, originally from Covington, LA, confesses her conversion to me almost guiltily.

I pose a question intended to figure out her favorite artist: “If stranded on an island with another artist, who would it be?” But she surprises me and takes it in a slightly different direction. Without any hesitation, she says, “Norman Rockwell; He seems like he’d be really

ALBUM REVIEW: ARCTIC MONKEYS AM

BY HANNAH STIIL

On September 9, indie rock animals Arctic Monkeys released their new album AM with indie label Domino Records. Despite a leak a few days prior to its release, the record has had a great reception. And though they have nearly a decade under their belts, the Sheffield four haven’t broken sales records in the states the way they have across the pond in homeland England. However the new album seems to be spreading like wildfire over the internet, breaking records all over the place. Not stateside yet, but I think that will change. AM begins with the slow-burner, “Do I Wanna Know?” It’s the second single to emerge from the album and a track sure to leave any indie chick with a blog weak in the knees, and every hipster dude just wishing he could sound as smooth. With lyrics like “Been wondering if your heart’s still open /and if so, I wanna know what time it shuts,” it’s easy to see why. The next track presents another question: “R U Mine?” The theme among the album seems to be the questions that come with the beginning of a relationship, as these two tracks clearly imply. The funky, third single from the album, “Why’d You Only Call Me When You’re High?” with its Dr. Dre-like beat, attests to this as well. Much of the album is reminiscent of R&B music with lovely falsetto backing vocals, electric guitars, and late-90s beats. The album ends beautifully with a musical rendition of poet John Cooper Clarke’s “I Wanna Be Yours.” This track alone displays Arctic Monkey’s talent – only they could create such a rendition without it being corny. Although this new album proves to be different from past releases, it is in no way a disappointment. The Monkeys still manage to prove their unique identity amongst the mass of typical indie bands by delivering a whole lot of rock, heart, and a little bit of funk into their unique style of music.



ARTIST SPOTLIGHT: MAGGIE AULTMAN

BY REILEY COOK

Social pressure is a heck of a thing. Sometimes it can lead to regrettable nights and lost causes. Other times it has a more fortuitous result, like getting Senior Maggie Aultman to pick up her paintbrush. “When people hear you’re an art major, they always ask you what you paint. I wanted to be able to say, ‘Oh, I paint this!’” she says to me in the ghostly empty Randall’s on Sunday afternoon. She admits she has always felt more at home drawing with charcoal, but after the pressures of society, and

humorous.” She confesses an admiration for his paintings too. Her ability to think about the question in terms of both practicalities (he’s funny) and interests (he’s talented) shows her keen sense of balance between the creative and the calculating. And perhaps that’s why she says that, while painting and drawing will be a lifelong passion, it won’t be a career pursuit; she understands about life beyond the paint. She plans to take part in solving human trafficking problems and rescuing the women involved. So while her four years as an Art Major have been well spent, the ultimate goal, she thinks, is to help people. And though she sees her paintings as way to do this, she admits that working hands-on with people is much more satisfying. Look for Maggie’s Senior Show next semester.



REILEY COOK

MGMT: PSYCHEDELIC REBELLION

BY REILEY COOK

The year is 2009. A band with infectious synth melodies and danceable grooves penetrates the popular market with their hit “Kids.” The band is MGMT, and the (at the time) recent college-grads get a taste of the high life. They are suddenly a part of the same rock-star culture they were thumbing their nose at with songs like “Kids,” and the other big hit “Time to Pretend.” They find themselves in a vulgarly superficial world, one that doesn’t suit their sillier, brainier tastes. So, riding high on their credibility as an “electro-indie-pop-rock duo,” MGMT release their sophomore effort *Congratulations* in 2010. What few expected however, is that the duo would totally disregard their aforementioned credibility and release an album of more psychedelic, avant-garde rock styles. This is something, the band insists, they’d been doing the whole time. The iTunes-single purchasers and casual radio listeners were shocked. They wondered: what had become of their trendy, quirky electro-pop duo? They wondered and wondered, and meanwhile *Congratulations* went on to have no commercial hits

Now, three years later in the fall of 2013, MGMT has released their third album. The self-titled effort sees the band going further down the rabbit hole with more psychedelic and thought-provoking sensibilities and even less rock and dance-ability. So what’s the end result? The album is much less accessible; I can’t imagine

popping this in at any sort of social event. Yet looking beyond the bizarre textures and creaturely noises, the hectic structures and shifting melodies, there is something very smart, very engaging present in this album. You get the feeling that MGMT don’t want to cater to any social events; they want to let you, personally and intimately, into their own strange world. And in that sense if you’re willing to listen (and listen and listen again), this album can be intensely rewarding. Just don’t expect the same sounds that you’ve heard from these guys. With maturity comes patience, and it is in full effect here; each song will take multiple listens before it becomes familiar. The two minute brainwashing anthem “Your Life is a Lie,” contains only three different chords and two sections. Other songs like “Cool Song No. 2,” repeat sections but with entirely new noisy bleeps and whirrs that discombobulate the listener. Ultimately, this album feels like the height of a band’s rebellion against the mainstream. Though strenuous at first, the album eventually becomes familiar and intensely rewarding. Where can they go from here? I don’t think it’s possible to become even weirder, but something tells me MGMT would disagree.



ARTIST: MAGGIE AULTMAN



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THE POETIC TRAVELER: DAVID HAVIRD AND *MAP HOME*

BY REILEY COOK

David Havird isn’t just a man. He’s a poetry man. He’s also an English professor here at Centenary. Those lucky enough to attend the English Department’s monthly Colloquium on Wednesday, September 4, were able to hear the poet read from his new collection of poetry. Released this summer and titled *Map Home*, the collection of poems spans a lifetime; most were written recently, but a few were crafted as early as 1975. And herein lays



the reason Havird has been published consistently to praise: he’s been doing this longer than most of us have been alive. Sometimes cryptic, other times beautifully descriptive (“Wasps in Winter” was particularly well-imaged), the poems amplify the small experiences of life in a refreshing way. It’s clear the book embodies the constant passion for poetry Havird had acquired during his own college years, where he studied under fellow poet James Dickey at the University of South Carolina.

I sat down with Havird to try and discover what it was about the medium of poetry that he found so compelling. He suggested, however, not looking at the medium itself, but rather what you can express in the medium. And for him, that’s a sense of order in an otherwise chaotic, unexplainable world. Still, knowing what it is that makes poetry attractive doesn’t make it any easier when it comes to putting pencil to paper. “There’s something mysterious about it,” he says describing the writing process. Often, he says, because he can’t make sense of the experiences that inspire the poems until after the poem is written. But in this sense, poetry isn’t just a form of expression; it’s a key to self-understanding. Evidence of this can be found in poems like “Fox of Asini,” which tie different images together expressing a greater, unified portrait of life.



Havird’s attempts to understand the world in a satisfying aren’t just for his own personal comfort though. He’s interested in creating something for the people at large, what he’s called “the tribe.” These aren’t self-indulgent poems that languish in introspection; they’re transcending the self. In poems like “Penelope’s Design,” he interlaces his own memories with history and mythology to create a sense of the world and the people unified. And in this way the poems become timeless. They reach to some place far above the past, present, or future. And still, for all this is worth, Havird says he owes much of his ventures into poetry on one fateful day as a college sophomore; a day he spent drinking beer with James Dickey and discussing poetry at a hotdog stand.



AMANDA CURRIER

NEW DIGITAL PROJECTION SYSTEM COMES TO ROBINSON FILM CENTER

BY AMANDA CURRIER

The Robinson Film Center unveiled its new digital projection system on August 2, 2013, after a yearlong fundraising campaign. Plans to upgrade were made after the film industry announced that all 35mm prints would be phased out by the end of the year. “We are grateful for this opportunity to add state-of-the-art digital cinema,” says Alexandyr Kent, executive director at RFC. “Because of outstanding funder support, we’re putting the best possible digital projection in our two theaters. The result will be crisper, bolder and more exciting movie experiences for everyone.” [Robinson Film Center]

The RFC is a non-profit arts organization that has two movie screen theaters and provides films and education daily to the public and serves more than 60,000 people annually. The organization relies mostly upon its Supporting Cast Membership Program, which consists of 1,000 individuals, families, and businesses currently for

its funding. Other donors include the Grayson Foundation, Carolyn W. and Charles T. Beard Family Foundation, City of Shreveport, Eldorado Resort Casino, Downtown Development Authority, I.A.T.S.E. Local 478, The Powers Foundation, and individual contributors.

“This new digital equipment is more than just technology,” Kent says. “It’s a reinvestment in our audience. We have always believed that RFC is a place where ‘an audience becomes a community,’ and we hope our supporters will strengthen that sense of community by becoming new members, renewing their membership, or helping us sign up new members.”

The Robinson Film Center’s mission is to educate, enrich and entertain through the power of film. RFC is a 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit arts organization located at 617 Texas Street in Shreveport, La. You can check out the October lineup at the Robinson Film Center website at www.robinsonfilmcenter.org.

NORTH LOUISIANA ARTISTS FEATURED AT MEADOW’S MUSEUM

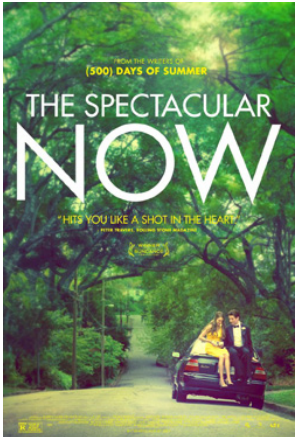
BY ALEXANDER THOMAS

The Meadows Museum’s North Louisiana Artists’ Triennial Competition occurred this September. The competition’s purpose is “to highlight the contribution of visual artists from the North Louisiana region to the cultural legacy of the State.” Even after the event was over, I enjoyed each time I came back to the museum, returning to the artwork that originally peaked my curiosity. While I still may not understand the symbolism behind Rachel Stuart-Haas’ “Llama,” I have great respect for the skill and care she put into her piece; it’s hard not to say that about any of the artists.

The artists, all from north Louisiana, entered their art for approval by Jolene Flood, a contemporary artist based in Asheville, North Carolina. Understandably, most of the pieces have a contemporary flair to them; from the grand yet simple characters portrayed in LaTonya Jackson’s pieces, to the melancholy and vivid imagery in Rachel Stuart-Haas’ paintings, to the bold, cartoonish wire and rope figurines of James Marks, each displays a contemporary sensibility.

The Meadows Museum of Art is an over-looked gem of the Centenary campus. I had an assignment from my Sculpture professor to visit the museum, and every student in my class drew a blank when he mentioned the name. Professor Allen jokingly claimed we had been “living under a rock,” explaining that the museum was the building behind the admissions office with the sculptures on its grasses. “Oh,” I was half-inclined to yell out knowingly, “One of those buildings you pass on the way to Strawn’s!” Head on down to the Meadows Museum of Art between 1 and 4 PM, Tuesday through Friday for a taste of local and national talents.

ROBINSON’S MOVIES



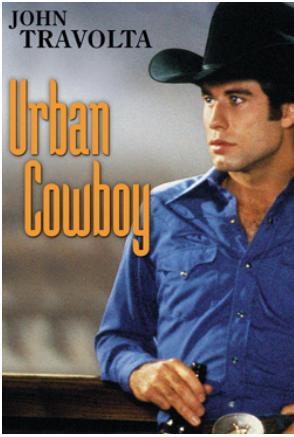
THE SPECTACULAR NOW

A hard-partying high school senior's philosophy on life changes when he meets the not-so-typical "nice girl."



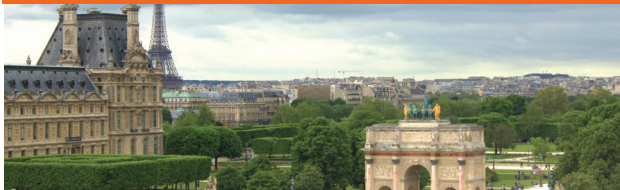
AIN'T THEM BODIES SAINTS

The tale of an outlaw who escapes from prison and sets out across the Texas hills to reunite with his wife and the daughter he has never met.



URBAN COWBOY

John Travolta stars as a young man from the country who learns about life and love in a Houston bar.



CENTENARY IN PARIS



6-7 IS ONE MEDIUM ENOUGH?



11 UMA'S STORY IN 200 WORDS

9

THE CONGLOMERATE

NOVEMBER 2013

ARTIST SPOTLIGHT: KEDRICK WILLIAMS

BY REILY COOK

When most people get stopped at a train crossing, they sigh and pray the train is short; Kedrick Williams enjoys the show. Kedrick's art career began with an attraction to graffiti and anime, both of which involve unique, individually-inspired fonts; it makes sense, then, that as an artist he would be fascinated by typeface. As a kid, he and his cousins would compete to have the best drawings, participating in an artistic proving-ground.

Kedrick doesn't just find art in the way letters are written; he finds art in every little detail. One of Kendrick's most recent projects was a group of collage pieces, and he combined photographs of women and galaxies with spray-paints and acrylics to create dreamy, surrealist images. By example of these paintings, Kedrick sees art in the ways lines are drawn and put together not just what those lines draw. The collages take things out of their original contexts – like the women from the fashion magazines – and put them in new ones, altering the original tone and mood completely. He repurposes these images and takes on the unorthodox because he is constantly aware of more than just the paintings themselves. He's aware of the mood, the intellectual criticism that every piece inevitably draws, and the potential of the art to captivate or bore.

Logically, he cites Jackson Pollock as a favorite and influential artist. He notes that Norman Rockwell is a fantastic painter, but he isn't capti-

vating; you may look at his work, but it doesn't demand you do so.

When asked to draw the line between what was street art and what was not, Kedrick said, "There isn't a



AMANDA CURRIER

line; it depends on the person and their intentions." Meaning, if a kid spray paints a vulgarity on a bridge, it has a chance to be art, because that kid may continue to paint and hone his skills. If that's the case, one day a crude gesture drawn on a bridge can become a crowning piece of contemporary art. Kedrick realizes what's at play in contemporary art – it's not only a game of visceral attraction but an intellectual debate, a simultaneously culture-shaping and culture-shaped craft. In contemporary art, a painting isn't worth much without the credibility of the artist behind it.

The concept of the "artist" and his relation to his work is a concern for Kedrick because he intends to turn his art into a profession. By being aware of the business beyond the artistic merit of a piece, he is staying one step ahead of the game. He has not decided whether he will travel around the country to different festivals, go to graduate school to get a teaching job, display his work in galleries, or some combination of these. His indecision doesn't rattle him much, but he does wish Centenary had prepared him more. "I wish they offered a class dealing with the professional aspects, the after college aspects," he said. He is confident, though, that as long as he's with his art, he's ready for anything.

DOMESTIC PARTNER BENEFITS YET TO BE REVISITED

BY HANNAH STILL

The Domestic Partner Benefits policy, which was tabled by the Board in April, has yet to be revisited, despite the Board having met numerous times since.

After the policy was abandoned due to financial crisis in 2007, the Diversity Council re-proposed Domestic Partner Benefits for Centenary employees and their families again in 2012. This is a policy which would allow for the families of nontraditional couples to have the same benefits as employees with traditional families or marriages.

In April 2013, the faculty requested that President Rowe give the policy a chance by bringing it to the

board. After two committees discussed this and similar policies, nothing was decided or implemented. The given reason for this is the uncertainty presented by the Affordable Care Act made the committees unsure of whether or not there would still be room in the benefits package for these alternative kinds of families.

This policy has been supported by students and faculty alike, including Outreach. The organization wrote letters of approval and support back when the policy was first suggested. The Faculty Coordinating Council and the Economic Policy Council also wrote a supportive letter for the policy; however the EPC did not endorse a certain one.

Without this policy, faculty and staff who are not represented as "partnered" in the state of Louisiana are

not allowed the benefits that married ones are. Centenary is one of the few Southern Liberal Arts schools that does not show recognition of same-sex couples among its employees and their families in benefits given.

Dr. Kelly Weeks said that she believes not implementing the policy "favors a certain kind of family."

Since its tabling back in April, the Domestic Partnership Benefits proposal has been abandoned, and employees are unsure as to what the future of the policy will be. The issue has not been up for reexamination; however the Diversity Committee will hold an open meeting on the subject in the future.



DARREN HUGHES

ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT: RACHEL OLSON

BY CHRISTINE LANGSTON

Cross-Country star and swimmer Rachel Olson has had an incredible season in her cross-country career this fall. So far she has won three different races and got 3rd overall at the Mook 5. She has also been named the Centenary Student-Athlete of the Week not once, but twice this fall. Her season began in September, and will end with the Conference Championships in November.

Rachel began running in middle school, but did not begin running seriously at Centenary until last year. She states that she has “always loved running because it’s an escape from everything else” and we all need an escape every now and then.

Not only does Rachel run cross-country for Centenary, but she also competes in triathlons. She says doing this has helped her to improve her running.

SHOULDER INJURY PUTS PAUSE ON VOLLEYBALL PLAYERS SEASON

BY CHRISTINE LANGSTON

This past July, Lindsey Bruce, a sophomore on the volleyball team, had to have shoulder surgery. She had an anchor put through her rotator cuff and attached to the bone. She also had a piece of twine inserted into the hole she had to pull that closed, and they cleaned up the shred on the top of the labrum. She will be out until February at the earliest, thus being out of action for her sophomore competition season.

On the court as a freshman she was a key player for the team and was given the name “Big Red” by her fans because of how much power she had. She says that her arm is feeling better and that watching her team play without her is “both an exciting and saddening experience.” The exciting part is watching her teammates im-

prove and learn to work with one another, but she misses actually playing and is looking forward to getting back on the court in February.

She states, “I wish more than anything that I could be out there with the team but I know that in the long run this is better for me and my teammates” because, as an athlete myself, it is better to let your body heal than to keep pushing and be out, not just for a season, but for life.

Bruce is working hard on her physical therapy, and she may return faster than the doctors originally thought. She is so proud of her team’s improvement and growth not only in terms of their volleyball skills, but their personalities and teamwork as well.

ATHLETIC FALL SEASON LOSING STREAKS

BY BRITTNEY THOMAS

In the past few years, Centenary sports dropped from Division 1 to Division 3, causing much controversy. For many athletes this was a blow to their pride; no longer would we be the underdog playing against some of the biggest schools in the nation. By looking at how Centenary sports are doing now, this switch may have hurt athletics overall. Without a Division 1 title, many athletes no longer want to compete for our school, or even attend Centenary. Yes, we are a school known for its academics, but for many students athletics is a way to help pay for college. Thus, because of the drop from Division 1 to Division 3, we are no longer able to offer student athletes scholarship money for athletics. This makes it hard for Centenary to compete with other Division 1 and Division 2 schools that can offer athletes money, thus causing us to fall behind in recruiting athletes good enough to compete effectively against our opponents.

This season, despite best efforts, several of the fall sports teams were just unable to have a winning season. After playing sixteen games so far, the Gents soccer team has been unable to pull off any victories and the Ladies, with 3 wins, 12 losses, and 2 ties, trying their hardest to win.

Although many of the fall sports haven’t had their best performances, spring teams aren’t letting the losing streak affect them or their training. The baseball team is in the middle of their fall workouts, and is looking forward to their season starting in February.

“I think we have a great chance at having a winning season,” said freshman, Micheal Schimpf. “We have stout pitching and a good offense.”

Just because we have dropped from D1 to D3 does not mean our athletes have any less talent individually, it simply means we have to pull together a little more because the abundance of talented athletes is not as prominent as it once was.

THE CONGLOMERATE ... STAFF ...

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Ellen Orr

EDITORIAL STAFF
Reily Cook
Amanda Currier
Olivia Johnson
Christine Langston
Parrish Masters
Adam Stephens

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Tyler Sanders
Hannah Still
Britney Thomas

PHOTOGRAPHER
Amanda Currier
John Michael Alost

LAYOUT DESIGNER
Gina Vaca Loyola

CENTENARY STUDENTS HELP TORNADO RELIEF VICTIMS IN MOORE

ADAM STEPHENS

This year, twelve Centenary students, including myself, chose to spend their Fall Break not by relaxing at home, but by traveling to a rather unusual destination: Moore, Oklahoma, an area that suffered damage from multiple tornadoes back in May of this year.

Due to the recent nature of the disaster, it’s incredibly important for the citizens of Moore to get the help they need—and they’re certainly getting quite a bit of help, as organizations such as Convoy of Hope and the Church of the Harvest have been pouring their resources into the relief effort (the Church of the Harvest had already put in over 46,000 hours of work thanks to its volunteers). To be honest, when I found out about all these organizations that have already put months of effort into relief, I was a little doubtful that a dozen students and a couple of Centenary’s staff members could contribute in a meaningful way.

Of course, that was before we started working, and I actually saw the extent of the damage.

On our first day, we drove through Moore and saw just how many buildings had been torn up by the winds, and how much rebuilding was still going on. We spent a bulk of the day picking up debris in the park; there were broken roof shingles, bits of glass, and some household objects (one girl even reported finding a doll).

As I was picking these things up, the phrase “torn apart” was stuck in my head. All these little bits of trash would just be dismissed as litter anywhere else, but here,

they were the remains of someone’s house and possibly some important possessions; these were pieces of some family’s life scattered around that park. And it wasn’t just homes that were torn apart; nearby was the site of Plaza Towers Elementary, where seven students lost their lives on the day of the tornado. Entire families were devastated in the worst way by the tornadoes, and the best we could do was pick up trash. My pessimism about our effect on Moore was growing.

But then, on the second and third day, we visited the seventeen acre property of Ken and Maria, and it finally felt like we were accomplishing things. True, a bulk of the work was still just picking up debris, along with tree limbs and chunks of metal, but now there seemed to be a greater cause for it. Ken and Maria were in the process of rebuilding their home (a process being done by a group of workers from Convoy of Hope), and clearing debris off their land, where they kept several animals, was an important step in getting their lives back on track. It wasn’t until we actually met some people that we were directly helping and saw exactly what we were picking up debris for that I realized that what we were doing was not in vain; it was work that had to be done before the really big repairs

Picking up debris wasn’t the most glamorous type of mission work (all my past mission work has involved, at minimum, painting a house), but it wasn’t unimportant; it was just one of the many steps necessary to help

Moore get back to a state resembling normalcy. Our group may not have had the biggest impact, but it was definitely an impact, and while I don’t want to speak on anyone’s behalf, I don’t believe a single one of us felt that what we did was useless. It was just a small contribution that was part of a bigger, more noticeable change.



RENOVATIONS ON CAMPUS

BY CHRISTINE LANGSTON

As many students, old and new, may have noticed, there have been some renovations going on around campus for the last three years. This is thanks in part to a 5.5 million dollar donation invested in the college for updates.

These updates have been based not only on what the administrators and facilities director, Chris Sampite, thought needed to be done, but also what the students requested to be done.

The majority of the funds went towards improvements in Hardin, Cline, Rotary and Mickle. The funds

also went towards new boilers and chillers that were 25 to 50 years old. There was a new parking lot added behind residence halls Hardin, James and Sexton, new patio benches at Cline.

The student-requested renovations include a new scoreboard, pavilion, sound system, and lighting system on Jones Rice, which is home to many of our beloved intramurals and sand volleyball court.

Also, new energy management systems were put into the majority of the buildings and roof overlays, water systems all around campus, and the card access system (thanks to DPS) on many of the buildings were installed using the donated money.

CRIME ON CAMPUS

BY PARRISH MASTERS

In the later weeks of September, a series of thefts from a series of vehicles belonging to Centenary residents took place.

According to the campus DPS website, “On the night of Oct. 10, Centenary College Police and Shreveport Police pursued and apprehended an individual following a vehicle burglary that occurred on campus.”

In regard to the burglarized vehicles on campus, one Cline residents said, “I don’t feel like DPS is doing its job. I just don’t feel safe knowing I’m not the only one this has happened to. How does something get stolen right beside the police station?”

According to the two most recent Annual Campus Security Report released by DPS, there were a total of 8 on-campus burglaries in 2010, 17 on-campus burglaries in 2011, and 15 on-campus burglaries in 2012. The rate of on-campus burglaries doubled in just one year. The data does suggest, however, that the rates may be declining. Next year’s report will show the final results.

Following this series of thefts, a sexual assault was reported on campus near the end of fall break.

In the first of many emails issued to Centenary students, Frank Waruszcak, Centenary’s Campus Access Administrator said, “At approximately 12:30am [on October 13], Centenary Police were notified of a forcible sexual assault that took place on Centenary’s campus two hour and a half hours earlier.”

The recent series of crimes on campus has come to unsettle some of Centenary’s students.

“I really don’t want to live on this campus anymore knowing that someone was sexually assaulted,” said Hannah Still, a freshman who lives in James Annex.

DPS seems to be making an effort to lower the chances of sexual assault through their Rape Aggression Defense (R.A.D) class. According to the DPS webpage for Crime Prevention and Education Programs, the class is designed to teach female students “to develop and enhance the options of self-defense, so they may become viable considerations to the woman who is attacked.” It is worth noting, however, that this class was planned to be held before the sexual assault occurred.

WHY MILEY CYRUS ISN'T SO BAD AFTER ALL

BY HANNAH STILL

A lot of talk has been about Miley Cyrus ever since the VMAs when the ex-Disney teen popped out of a teddy bear and twerked all over Robin Thicke onstage. Many people, including feminist rockstar from the nineties Sinead O'connor, have condemned Miley, with critiques ranging from her clothing and styling choices to her behaviors. Everyone is trying to execute some type of control over Miley, but not too long ago she let us all know that she can't be tamed. Here's why Miley's "twerking" and wild behavior aren't necessarily a bad thing, and why we shouldn't try to tame her.

The first critique is that Miley is behaving like a "slut". However, no one said anything about Robin Thicke, whom she performed that infamous show with that night on the VMAs. Robin Thicke is married, guys. He has a wife and a child, not to mention his song Blurred Lines is a serious issue regarding rape culture and consent (which has no blurred lines, by the way). And yet, all this talk is about Miley being "slutty" because she "twerked" on stage in very little clothing. This isn't even the problem at hand. Why is it wrong for Miley to behave this way and not Thicke? Has he not done his wife and child a disservice by letting Miss Cyrus grind all over him? (Not to mention that Beetlejuice suit... yikes!). Miley's strange and provocative behavior brings

us to this conclusion: society still holds the double standard that it is acceptable for men to be overtly sexual but when a girl does it, she's an abhorrent "slut". Maybe next time we find ourselves reacting to a girl that way, we can stop and realize that dudes do it all the time. And that we should hold both women and men to the same standard.

Other concerns have to do with Cyrus being a role model. People talked about Miley from



Facebook to Twitter all the way back to Tumblr and Reddit saying that she was setting a bad example for our society's children. But here's the thing: Miley is trying to get rid of the whole Hannah Montana image. The poor girl has had to grow up in the spotlight and do everything that Disney wanted, just so Billy Ray and the rest of the Disney crew could make their money. But that time of her life has ended, and this means transformation. She couldn't keep being America's sweetheart if she wanted to sell records. She had to do something shocking. Jumping out of a teddy bear with her tongue hanging out and grinding all over Robin Thicke pretty much murdered Hannah Montana. So, don't worry, kids don't have to look up to her anymore. And even if they do, at least she can teach them this: that you must always, under any circumstance, find a way to be yourself. Maybe an exaggerated self like Miley's, but yourself all the same.

You don't have to like Miley Cyrus or buy her music to see these things. Miley's presence in pop music isn't as bad as people are making it out to be. She's selling records and starting conversations all just because she changed her appearance and actions. She's more at the forefront than ever before. And that is what's got people talking, which is, I think, exactly what Miley wants.

EDITORIAL: PASSPORT POINTS

I was driving with a friend on a Saturday, when we were interrupted by his ringing phone. He told me to hold on, and I waited patiently as he responded to a text message. He put the phone back down and apologized. I asked him what it was, and he said it was the Passport Points code for the basketball game that night. We were a good six miles from the gold dome.

"Do you want it?" he asked.

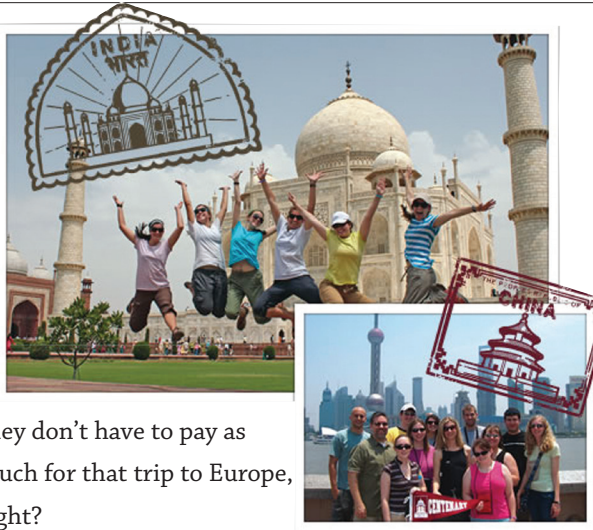
It is entirely possible to completely avoid ever going to a Centenary event and still earn the maximum 2,000 Passport Points. In fact, if students were ambitious enough, it'd be possible for all of the students to reach the maximum number of points while only one student actually attended events. Of course, people have other incentives for going to Passport Points-sponsored events, so this would never actually happen, but the point is that *some* students *some* of the time get points for events they don't actually attend. This seems like a condemnable, highly immoral action, but is it possible to justify the acquisition of unearned Passport Points? When we acknowledge the growing price of tuition, does this "theft" become a reasonable vindication?

On top of the intellectual stress college students' experience, a new monkey has jumped on their backs – financial stress. Since the 1980s, American colleges have experienced tuition inflation, and Centenary is no different. Over the past five years, there has been an annual increase of 5.0% in tuition and 5.0% in fees. Though increases – like last year's – appear relatively small, they

start to add up when they occur annually. But no matter how small an increase, any time a college raises its tuition it is the students' responsibility as consumers to ask themselves one eternal question: *cui bono?* Who's really benefitting here?

We always ask this question when we're deciding to purchase anything, but usually with little reflection. When we decide to attend college, thousands of dollars are spent, and the question warrants serious reflection. It seems cynical and mistrusting, but it's necessary. In 1991, the Department of Justice charged Ivy League universities and MIT with conspiring to restrict financial-aid rewards. It was an antitrust violation, and Attorney General Dick Thornburgh called the schools a "collegiate cartel" (keep in mind most college students associate the cartel with the murderous drug-lords on *Breaking Bad*). The attempted price-fixing wasn't a matter of lower student enrollment or budget-cuts; it was the result of a group of colleges trying to take the most amount of money possible from students in a society where they are dependent on a college degree to have a chance at a successful career.

So when students take advantage of the Passport Points system, is it justified? Is it reasonable to expect students to do whatever is necessary to pad their pockets when tuition continues to increase and a sort of intellectual vacation is necessary to graduate? Are students simply acting in a way that makes them feel reasonably "okay" with tuition increases because, hey,



they don't have to pay as much for that trip to Europe, right?

The flawed system behind Passport Points, along with increasing tuition rates and bad behaviors of well-respected universities, makes me speculate about how much bang for my buck I'm really getting out of this system. The fact that, in case of financial emergency or something similar, my Passport Points can be significantly lowered in monetary equivalency makes me worry too.

Ultimately, students need to be responsible consumers. Especially in light of the Paris fiasco, students need to be more inquisitive about how their (well, their parents' mostly) money is spent. After all, isn't the very ethos of the college student to question? If students can become fully responsible consumers, maybe they can stop taking advantage of the system and begin to question why certain programs exist – because again, *cui bono?*

MILEY CYRUS SHOULD STOP FOR A MINUTE

BY TYLER SANDERS

Miley Cyrus has been talk of the town for quite some time, and thankfully not about illicit narcotics like many before her. But because she has been more active in her music career we can open a discussion about her actions and examine them for their potential fallacies and moral mis-judgments.

I recognize the fact that Miley Cyrus has a completely different gender, and we face different struggles. I recognize that she is taking a strong ideological stance in an attempt to set herself apart from what her career used to be. With this she is promoting beneficial ideas about woman’s sexuality and woman’s choice, but we both face universal struggles to be decent people, and herein state that Miley Cyrus is committing racist actions.

Miley Cyrus is a white woman who could never understand what it is like to experience having darker skin. There are countless reasons as to why having darker skin makes it unimaginably harder to live a happy life. To mention a few; the fact that



a persons skin is darker makes them more likely to get stopped by the police, and more likely to get arrested than white counterparts. So, to devalue a person’s experience and ignore their struggles so you can feel edgy and different is not acceptable.

Miley is not alone in this appropriation of black culture Madonna or the “Madgesty” has set an example for female’s in pop to follow. Madonna has made several statements regarding women, femininity, and homosexuality. However she has failed to make any regarding the misrepresentation of different cultures. Madonna has done several photo-shoots, and music video styling herself in Indian sari’s and bindi’s and geisha girls from Japan. By further reinforcing stereotypes you are contributing to the problem.

In this way, Miley has failed to set herself apart from others. Miley and Madonna have both superficially adorned themselves to a condensed stereotype that is part of a large problem.

STUDENT UNION BS

BY BRITTNEY THOMAS

Being a student worker in the SUB allows me the chance to bond with fellow students and gain numerous opportunities that will help me once I graduate... but what I actually do is answer the phone. Having a job that that allows you to both study and make money doing something easy is GREAT, I’m not going to lie. The two hours I work gives me the chance to finish a good portion of my schoolwork, I have an awesome boss- I love you Ashlie Daiglie- and great coworkers. Nevertheless, there are major downsides.

I have to work nine hours every week to earn money that goes towards my tuition. Nine hours isn’t that bad; two hours here, one hour there, another two hours there, and on. The problem with this is working around not only my schedule, but the other student workers, which creates weird schedules. The SUB is open until 12 on weekdays. On Monday nights, I work 11-12. This is where the main problem comes in. All the doors that you could use to get into the SUB are locked before 11:00. So, what is the point of having a student working when nobody can even get in the building? And what are the chances of someone calling Centenary College of Louisiana at 11:30 at night?

Then comes Sunday morning where I

work from 10-12. I leave my dorm at 9:50 and arrive at the SUB at 9:55. I try to walk into building, but the doors are locked. I call DPS at 9:56, and I finally get into building at 10:15. I understand that the buildings are locked for safety reasons, but whenever the employees can’t even get into the SUB to work, how do they expect other students to use the things available to them inside?

The final drawback to being on work-study is just having a job. I’m grateful for the chance to work and have it go towards my tuition, but who likes working? Getting up three hours before I would really have to if it weren’t for my job isn’t always easy. But a girl’s gotta do what a girl’s gotta do, so work it is.



JOHN MICHAEL ALOST

QUEER AND ANSWER

BY SAM WHITTINGTON & OUTREACH

What is the difference between transgender & transgendered? Why is one better?

Good question! Transgender is preferred by the majority of the trans* community, as opposed to transgendered. One main reason why is because transgender is NOT a verb! Just as one is not gayed, or womaned, one is not transgendered. There is not an action that completes the process of becoming transgender. One can transition, but regardless of whether they transition (i.e., hormones, surgery, etc.) they are still trans* before and after their transition. Just like a cis person (someone whose gender identity matches their anatomical gender at birth) is a boy/girl before puberty hits, and they continue to be a male/female after puberty hits.

Why do so many women who were self-declared lesbians in college end up marrying men?

Well, something that needs to be crystal clear is that *most* people don’t fall in love with a certain set of genitalia. Most folks fall in love with a person, and their personality, beauty, and intelligence. And it just so happens that in some cases, it doesn’t matter what’s in between their legs, they will still love that person.

What I’m trying to say is that sexuality can be, and in many cases is, fluid. Another way of wording this is by saying that these previously identifying lesbians could possibly now identify as bisexual and/or pansexual.



CENTENARY CONSTRUCTIVE C

QUELLE BONNE IDÉE

BY AMANDA CURRIER

Paris, France: a city that is full of art, history, literature, and Centenary College's May Module students for approximately two weeks every year. In the fall of 2014, we will be sending the entire freshman class to Paris for a period of about 10 days during a shared international, immersive study that begins on campus August 4, 2014, and will wrap up on August 22, 2014.

Those beginning their study at Centenary College will have the opportunity to accomplish more during their college career as a student by partaking in an enriching intercultural experience designed to stimulate their learning and motivate them academically, while socially strengthening their peer-to-peer interaction and increasing their sense of independence.

Why send them to Paris? First of all, the French are warm and inviting people, and the city is invigorating. The experience of travel abroad especially somewhere exotic like Paris is positively stimulating to the senses. The buildings go upward towards the sky instead of spread out, and the people live above the businesses and restaurants that line the ground floor. The people there live simple lives. Their homes meet only the necessary requirements for survival, including a small bath, a bed, and a tiny kitchen.

Parisians live by the "Quest for the Good Life." They have the best cuisine, and they walk everywhere while

enjoying the beauty and magic of their most wonderful city. Aesthetics, art, and the preservation of their history as well as taking care of their people are the main goals of this culture.

Being a city of many tourists, they are very tolerant of people of other cultures, and are even eager to share their city, their lives, and their personal stories. There is so much history contained inside their city. People of Paris take the time to live – eating outside, strolling in the gardens, or sitting at their leisure and making friends of strangers. The French people take pride in learning new things.

What Will They Learn In Paris?

While studying in Paris, students can expect to learn from a team of about 12 or so professors about Centenary, Louisiana and the history of the French and their influences to our culture, (art, literature, history, etc.) The students will be divided into groups, and each professor will instruct the individual groups at some point in rotation about how Paris/France tie into their area of expertise, introducing the students to many aspects of the culture and our very own history. The students will learn all this while living as the French do, and gaining a newfound sense of international awareness that will lead them to global success.

Students are humbled to have a very small room to share with up to three other people. They eat the cuisine of the culture, walk to their destinations, learn to navigate the metro and bus routes, and live as simply as any Parisian. They will be taken to many places including the sites of Shakespeare & Company, the Louvre, one of the greatest museums of the world, Napoleon's Tomb,

Sacré-Coeur (Sacred Heart), Notre Dame, and even the Palace at Versailles, That is a lot of culture to experience, and the students will have about 8-10 days to soak up as much information as they can.

Students and staff engage in discussions over lunch at sidewalk cafe's that line the streets of Paris, getting to know each other at the same time. They discuss great writers as Ernest Hemingway, F. Scott Fitzgerald, and Victor Hugo, and artists such as Raphael, Leonardo da Vinci, Pablo Picasso, Vincent Van Gogh, the Impressionists, and many more. These things have been popular topics and places to visit during the annual May Module, Americans In Paris, which is one of many intercultural modules offered. Now students will be able to learn even more, including government, monarch and military history, and the French involvement in the settlement of Louisiana.

When the students are not learning about literature, art, and history, they will be dining in sidewalk café's eating fine cuisine, learning to function as part of a group by navigating the city in their free time and finding different ways to interact with each other. Bonds of friendship will be formed, both peer-to-peer and intercultural, that will shape these students, and enhance their worldly view by creating a pleasurable learning experience for everyone.

As a May Module participant for the year 2013, I took enough away from Paris to change my life completely including perspective, attitude, and the desire to reach farther and never stop learning. The experience shaped me in ways I never thought possible, and I say, "Yes!" Centenary in Paris will definitely define the success for the future leaders of the upcoming generations.

Isn't this what the faculty and administrators want you to get from the study abroad experience? Sure, it is a costly endeavor, but it is one that is justified by its rewards. The beautiful thing about this new plan is that the cost will be figured into tuition, which will afford the students the attendance and will allow them to participate in more activities during their time at Centenary. Up until now, students have had to come up with additional funds on top of their tuition to attend the modules. This may anger a lot of past students, but perhaps parents will see this as a great idea when it comes to forking over additional funding for the international studies.



Y IN PARIS

OR DESTRUCTIVE

PARIS? CE N'EST PAS!

BY BRITTNEY THOMAS

Early last October, President Mark Miller announced that next year's freshmen class will be going on a trip to Paris, France. This trip is called "international study" and involves learning about the culture and history of the world, particularly France. However, there are several ways this could not work for Centenary students. These are just some.

What if they don't want to go to France? Individual choice is taken out of the matter completely. Students are only being sent to one place in Europe rather than a location of their choosing. The fact that it is required also takes choice out of the matter. One student may want to go to an area of their choosing, such as South America, which bears no similarity to France at all.

What about active students who are going to have to pay to go abroad? Although we have the passport points system, the number of passport points you accumulate will not necessarily cover the whole cost. Travelling from country to country, especially overseas, is expensive! So why are 2014's freshmen getting to go for free while students now have had to pay large sums of money in order to fulfill the requirement that you study abroad with a May Module at some point while at Centenary. Also, the increase in tuition for these students proves to be unfair as well, considering we did not have to pay as much and we still will all be leaving the country for school at some point, too.

This is cutting into time which could be spent in class, and also students' summer break. The immersion program takes place through pretty much all of August, from the 4th through the 22nd. We started Orientation this year on the 15th! Are students still going to go through the orientation process in the two days that won't be spent in France? If so, will it be as intensive? This way, it will cut into actual class time and will not be as beneficial because students will come home jetlagged and have to go straight into orientation if it's not during those two days, and if it is they aren't going to go through the same activities which prepared us for Centenary. It also cuts into summer vacation not only for the new students, who worked very hard all senior year and deserve a break before they get into the real stuff, but

28% of students believe that "Centenary in Paris" is a positive program

72% of students don't believe that "Centenary in Paris" is a positive program



AMANDA CURRIER

also for the staff that is involved.

This class trip is a bad idea because it is not individualized. Those attending do not get to choose where they want to go or how much they are going to pay for it.

It also increases tuition for these students and therefore they are having to pay more than the students before them.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

As a student ambassador and Centenary history buff who is constantly giving campus tours and telling people about the school, I forget that not everyone knows all about this incredible institution, its history, and its current features, people, and accolades.

Just the other day, I said something to my mom about our artist-in-residence, William Joyce. “The William Joyce?!” she asked. “I didn’t know he was your artist-in-residence!” She then told me that all she wanted for Christmas were all of his books, signed “to Robin’s future grandchildren” (sigh), but I digress.

My mom isn’t the only person a little out-of-the-loop. I’ve run into people—Shreveporters, students,

faculty and staff even—who didn’t know that we are the oldest liberal arts college west of the Mississippi, or that we have the only student-run French-language press in the nation, or that we were founded as a celebration on 100th anniversary of John Wesley’s organization of the Methodist Societies of England (hence, the name Centenary).

We’ve graduated major CEOs, professional athletes, an Olympic medalist, acclaimed writers, nationally esteemed medical doctors, a state senator, a state Supreme Court Justice, and even the youngest person to ever summit the “Big Seven” (the highest mountains on every continent). I could go on and on. The point is that few

people know these things.

This issue, in many ways, aims to educate our readers about some of the unique things about this school. Read about our Pulitzer Prize and Academy Award winner artist-in-residence. Learn about current students who are doing cool things. And yes—we covered the currently controversial “Centenary in Paris” program, too.

I hope you enjoy this issue of *The Conglomerate*. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, send them my way at eorr@my.centenary.edu.

Ellen Orr, Editor-in-Chief

HOLIDAY SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST

BY AMANDA CURRIER

With the Thanksgiving break approaching, many students are looking forward to a much needed break from school and work and all the endless activities that keep them busy. Sometimes going “Home for the Holidays” isn’t always an easy task to juggle your time amongst family with your newly established independence. The general expectation is to gather and spend as much time as possible with those we love and hold dear. It is a time for joy and fellowship with family and friends and a time to give thanks for our many blessings.

When I return to my hometown to visit, I live out my very own modern day War of the Roses. Only instead of fighting for the crown and the throne of England, everyone in my family is fighting over control of what I do while I am in town. The way they act, I might as well be the queen.

Going home during the holidays can be a bit of a creative task. What is supposed to be a vacation can sometimes become work in trying to juggle time between family members, friends and other loved ones, because Lord knows unity within a family to actually gather in one place is unheard of (this is the case with my folks, anyway). You may find yourself faced with a pouty family member because Heaven-forbid you did

this or you didn’t do that. This can prove to be very stressful, to say the least, and sometimes even the strongest anti-anxiety medications cannot help.

Many of you will go home and plan to attend gatherings with friends such as bonfires and tailgate parties and will manage to squeeze some family time into the mix with no such dilemma. Nonetheless, here are some tips to keep the peace within the family and enjoy your holiday break.

First, make yourself a schedule to balance out your time. Never spend more time with your bestie from high school than your own mother; remember, she does not want to be left out. Guys, remember to go hunting or fishing with dear old Dad, or watch the big game with him on television.

Also plan to spend some time with siblings. Remember that you have gone off to college and are living it up while you have left them behind with your parents, so spare them some time for them to vent frustrations or share experiences they have had, and for you to share stories with them to include them in your life. This strengthens your relationships immensely over the years to come. Hopefully, they will be there long after your parents are gone, so keep them close.

Do not forget to visit your grandparents, because they will not live forever, and one day you will wish

you had planned just one more afternoon with them. Indulge them in hearing their stories you have heard a thousand times, because one day you will find yourself picking up the phone just to hear them once more.

Plan your next visit, before you even leave town, so that you can give your family and your friends some things to look forward to rather than just pout about you leaving. This gives you incentive to come back home sooner instead of later.

If you want to spend extra time with your friends, plan to do so later in the evening because you reserve the early afternoons for your parents. Show them the respect they deserve, and this keeps them happy.

Finally, remember to take a long bath, go for a long walk or do whatever it is that you do to keep the peace within yourself. Your own emotional health is vital in keeping social relationships functioning. You will be glad you took twenty minutes to clear your head and appreciate the things you love most about your hometown.

These are just a few things I have learned throughout the years. I hope that you will all have a very joyous and memorable holiday break. Just remember to hug those family members a little tighter and laugh as much as you can, because our families give us great material to write about.

MAN ON THE STREET: WHAT’S YOUR FAVORITE THING ABOUT CENTENARY?



“The loving people!” -Hannah Bergeron and Jordan Perry



“Knowing everyone.” -Zach Chelette



“It feels like home.” -Meghan Sharp
“The small campus.” -Simone Byrd

Each month, we will write one Centenarian’s story in exactly 200 words. This is the first installment.

UMA’S STORY IN 200 WORDS; FIRST-YEAR STUDENT FROM INDIA BLENDS CULTURES

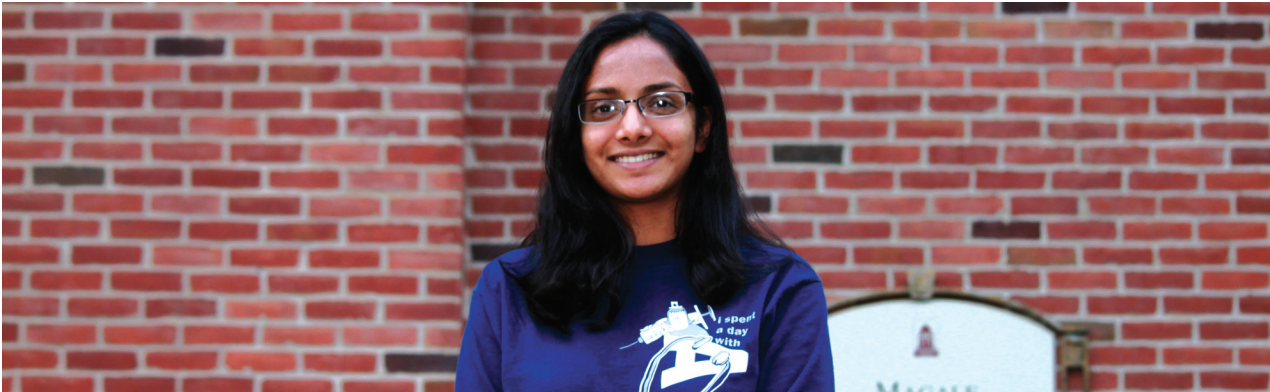
BY ELLEN ORR

Uma Tadikonda is from India, but she’s lived in America for 14 years. When her parents became citizens in 2011, she automatically gained citizenship. However, now 18, she recently surrendered her Indian passport in exchange for new American documents.

This, however, isn’t the most interesting part of Uma’s story.

Once born, Uma was left in the custody of her Telugu-speaking grandparents, as her parents moved to Jamaica so her father could finish med school.

At four, Uma immigrated: Jersey, then Vegas. Then, in 2003, her dad was offered two jobs—one in Alaska, one in Louisiana. They moved south and have lived in Monroe since.



AMANDA CURRIER

A CENTENARY HAUNTING

BY TYLER SANDERS & OLIVIA JOHNSON

That noise outside your window in the dead of night? Could be the air conditioning unit... But it could be something much, much worse – something that lurks in the shadows, watches your every move, and goes bump in the night.

We all know that Shreveport does have some history of being haunted – an episode of Ghost Hunters was even filmed regarding the possibility of Elvis Presley haunting the Shreveport Municipal Auditorium, where the rock n’ roll icon got his start on the Louisiana Hayride. Many may not think, however, that the haunting of Shreveport may include Centenary.

Centenary was founded in 1825, but it wasn’t instituted in Shreveport until 1908. Even still, 115 years is a long time for people to move in and out of the school, for professors and administrators to age, and for souls to get left behind. While no definitive proof of the paranormal on Centenary’s campus has ever been recorded, rumors have floated around for long enough; it’s time the truth comes out.

Uma initially felt alone but quickly befriended the local Indian community, participating in traditional ceremonies and doing Bollywood dance.

She also made non-Indian friends. One helped her through hard times in high school, and Uma came out the other side appreciating her friend’s catholic faith.

“Christianity can teach me things that Hindusim can’t,” she said.

Unbeknownst to her parents, she plans to convert to Catholicism. She hopes they’ll be accepting.

“(My parents) are hardcore (Hindus),” but “my mom has always encouraged me to learn from other religions.”

“Maybe religions are stages in life,” she mused.

We sat down with Don Hooper to discuss the one ghost that is infamous throughout Centenary, Joe.

According to Don, his full name is Joe Gifford and he was the department chair for the theatre in addition to actually building the playhouse. This was all sounding really creepy, and we were getting excited. But, unfortunately, as our interview progressed, Don told us that Joe did not die in a horribly violent death in the theatre; he died of old age peacefully.

While there have been no reported sightings of Joe, there are several stories regarding Joe making his presence known.

One student who refused permission to release their name in fear of Joe’s retaliation from beyond the grave said that while finishing up the day during Orientation training this summer, the playhouse door slammed shut. Sure, this isn’t any definitive proof, but it doesn’t sound like nothing.

While there have not been visual sightings of Joe, he will continue to make his presence known and maybe, just maybe, one day you’ll see Joe’s shadow lurking behind you in the Playhouse.

of the arboretum, snaking around through the rose garden. It was impossible not to notice all of the furry little students stuck on campus during the break, unable to return to their home trees because they had already forged new ones. Their bushy little tails fluttered up and down trees, gathering acorns. I couldn’t help but feel bad for these adorable creatures, now condemned to a life stuck in one of Centenary’s liberal arts trees. Thus, I decided to befriend one studious little rodent and obtain some insight into the life of a Centenary squirrel.



TAKE A RIDE WITH CAB

BY TYLER SANDERS

Many incoming students are still unsure of who or what CAB actually is. Take some notes kids, this one is for you.

Tyler Sanders- Is CAB in charge of all the activities that go on around Centenary?

Lea Hair- By no means are we in charge of all activities that happening on campus! Both SGA, RHA, as well as RA’s and a variety of other organizations host events all the time. The biggest difference is that programming is CAB’s only goal. According to our Constitution: “The mission of the Centenary Activities Board is to provide free and fun activities and entertainment to all undergraduate students of Centenary College of Louisiana.”

TS- Can students suggest activities for CAB to produce or is it strictly for members?

LH- Members are the only people who can plan CAB events, but anyone can suggest ideas. Also, anyone can join CAB at anytime. Meetings are at 8pm on Wednesdays! Third floor of the SUB!

TS- Does CAB host events with any other organizations on campus?

LH- YES! On Tuesday CAB co-programmed with Outreach to put on Rocky Horror Picture show, and there are more plans in the works for future co-programming opportunities. CAB also provides the t-shirts for the BIG event every year. If any organization wishes to co-program, they should contact CAB vice president, Ryan O’Donnell

TS- Is there anything you want to tell incoming students about CAB?

LH- CAB stands for Centenary Activities Board. We like to use the hashtag: #CABbeepbeep You can like us on FB, or follow us on Twitter and Instagram. All of our money comes from student fees, so we really want to put on events that students enjoy and want to attend. We are very open to suggestions and ideas, and we appreciate both! Help us make your college experience fun!

CENTENARY SQUIRREL SPOTLIGHT

BY OLIVIA JOHNSON

It was the first day of fall break and I was alone on campus. Unwilling to go back to my room and waste the lovely evening air, I began to wander through the many twists and turns of Centenary’s veritable forest. Past the trees lining the main drive, through every corner

Name: Harry B. Tail
Age: 8 Months
Major: Neuroscience
Favorite color: Grey
Favorite movie: Up
Favorite type of nut: Pecan
Favorite thing about Centenary: Every squirrel knows each other!



AMANDA CURRIER

EMPTY CHAIR

BY REILEY COOK

Centenary’s choir has always been its flagship music program, and, not that they are less appreciated, instrumentalists have always played second fiddle. Now, there are fewer instrumental majors than ever before – what happened to all the strings and brass, the percussion and winds? As of this semester, there are only five instrumental music majors in Centenary’s Hurley School of Music, and two of them are new recruits from the Fall 2013 Semester. Dr. Gale Odom, Dean of the Hurley School, accounts for this small number as an effect of the decreasing Centenary population. On top of this, Centenary has begun publicizing its new initiatives in music theatre and music technology. While these add new inspiration and innovation into the music school, a shift in the targeted recruits is a real possibility. As well, the new Artist in Residence and Centenary music alum Twyla Robinson has begun teaching vocal and musical theatre classes.

Efforts have been made to guarantee at least two pianists will always be present on the Centenary campus. The addition this year of two Hurley Piano Scholarships will secure that the choir will never go without accompaniment and the school will always have at least two proficient instrumentalists to carry the torch.

While the small number of instrumental majors is projected to bounce back, as long as the total population of the school stays low the Hurley School’s number of majors will be smaller than in previous years. The school still offers degrees in music with a number of different possible concentrations attractive to both vocal and instrumental majors. And though the numbers appear small, Dr. Odom suggests that the recruiting goal is to attract music students who can be successful in Centenary’s atmosphere of high academic standards, no matter what their specialization. So, even if numbers do appear small it’s always better to think – and as the instrumentalists have shown – quality is much better than quantity.

ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE: WILLIAM JOYCE

BY PARRISH MASTERS

I remember watching *Rolie Polie Olie* as a child. My memories of the show are vague—I couldn’t have been more than five—but I remember the joy of watching the cartoon. From the odd shapes of the characters to the teapot house the characters lived in, the surreal world of the Polies brought happiness to my little five-year-old mind. I am humbled to know that, years later, the show's creator lives about a two minutes’ walk away from my dorm, and that he has an office on Centenary's campus as our artist-in-residence.

William Joyce is an acclaimed author, illustrator, and animator, who's written and illustrated a plethora of children's books, and who has brought many stories to life in the form of digital animation (including *Rolie Polie Olie*, *A Bug's Life*, and *Toy Story*). His illustrations have graced the covers of *The New Yorker*. His paintings hang in galleries nationwide. *Newsweek* named him one of the top 100 people to watch in the new millennium.

According to a biography of William Joyce written by Kristen Palm, Joyce started out as a children’s book



AUTUMN QUIRK 2013

BY HANNAH STILL

So far this year, strangeness and uniqueness have had their impact on the fashion industry. What was once weird has now become adorable, and what looks different has become what looks good! This trend has made it easy to be your own self while also remaining *en trend*. Everyone has some degree of uniqueness, and with this way of viewing fashion, you can really let your unique qualities shine through. But if you’re having trouble finding a way to illustrate your own special uniqueness, here are a few trends that will help:

Animal Patterned Clothing: I don’t just mean leopard print. During this fall, wearing depictions of your favorite animal has become not only popular, but very cute. The best thing about this trend is that you can literally pick any animal and they’re likely to be printed in a pattern on a dress or pair of leggings somewhere, like H&M’s cat patterned dresses and Old Navy’s Fox and Bird printed sweaters. Just pick your favorite animal and let your preference guide you! The cutest ones are the ones that YOU find the cutest. And don’t worry, if you can’t figure out which animal you want to use to follow this trend, just wear something with cats on it. Cats are ALWAYS adorable.

Double Buns: The double bun trend, also called *odango* buns if you want to get technical and Japanese, is huge this season. All sorts of people are rocking them, from Gwen Stefani to, of course, Miley Cyrus.

To make these buns, just part your hair down the middle, put your hair in Cocker Spaniel-esque ponytails on each side of your head (these should be high up as to

avoid the bagel look – Sorry, Leia!), and then wrap them around the base of each ponytail and bobby pin the crap out of ‘em. You can pull down some tendrils in case your buns look too tight. For shorter hair, you can usually just skip the ponytails and wrap your hair straight into the little buns. And voila! You are quirky and adorable.

Cut-out Boots: We can all agree that boots are pretty much a fall staple. But what’s even better for stomping on those crunchy leaves this autumn? Cut-out boots! Usually they have some sort of cut-out in the back or on the sides of the shoe in which you can reveal your socks or a little skin! This pop of color creates the effect of a more nuanced, unique appearance. The best part is that you can transition them into spring and summer as well. The cut-out allows for air to move through the shoe, which cools your feet down, yet they also provide enough warmth to keep you cozy during the fall. Best of all, they come in a variety of colors and different cut-out shapes. Buy a pair and make them your own.

The coolest (ha) thing to me about fall, besides the changing weather, has been these trends which adhere to illustrating the uniqueness and style of each person who wears them. But don’t worry if you don’t particularly like any of these trends because what is important about style is that it is yours! Don’t compromise who you are in what you wear; wear cats because you like cats and double buns because you feel like Bubbles that day. Or don’t! Either way, the real important thing this fall is to be unique in your styling. That is to say, be your absolute self.

illustrator in 1981, and he began to author them as well a few years later. In 1985, *George Shrinks* was published; the book tells what it’s like for a boy the size of a mouse to interact in a world where everything is designed for the average-height human. His accomplishments in literature helped to propel him into the world of film and animation.

Joyce has been an artist-in-residence at Centenary for 10 years now. Over that time, he’s co-produced *Robots* (a film released in 2005 that was named by the American Film Institute one of the top 10 animated films); co-founded Moonbot Studios in 2009 (which has produced apps and games that have won numerous

awards and have been included in the iTunes App Store Hall of Fame); and received in 2012 both an Academy Award for "Best Animated Short Film" and an Oscar for his and Brandon Oldenburg’s short film, *The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore*.

Not only has he conjured national fame; he's also offered Centenary students a wide array of opportunities. On top of giving lectures on campus, he's also taken on students as interns at Moonbot.



IS ONE MEDIUM ENOUGH?

BY TYLER SANDERS

Exit Through The Gift Shop is an interesting step for a cross-medium artist. Banksy has now created a piece of work that cannot be weathered away by time. As Banksy states in the movie, street art has a short life span. It is not cast in bronze or put in a case in a museum exhibit. It lives and suffers as the city it was created in.

Street art has long been considered vandalism and an overabundance of it located within cities has led to the idea that the city is less than. Even if street art is not considered a valid form of self-expression, it takes a level of nerve to commit a crime all in the name of expressing your thoughts and opinions.

The film raises the question of the need for documentation of art, the artists, and what the effects of documentation are. Without documenting the giants of street art, many up and coming artists would be lost and struggling to find a voice. In my experience, finding your own voice has been about studying whom you consider to be masters of the craft and applying what they knew to your own knowledge. This allows for the creation of new and innovative art.

When art is documented, it allows for the growth and evolution of a creative process to be explored. A snapshot of the artist’s mind is created and hopefully stored safely for future discussion. However, as Thierry Guetta illustrated, some people care less about future exploration of art rather than just capturing it.

Exploration of past creative snapshots does not



have to concern the audience, the artist can also benefit from the exploration of their art. Being confused and having the ability to rediscover your old thoughts and connect them to your newest experiences can create some of the most powerful art.

The movie also raises the question – what is the difference between an artist and a knock-off street vendor? As all art is subjective and all art is limitless in its expression, so this question has no easy conclusion. If we wanted to determine what makes an artist different from a hack, we would have to create an inarguable manifesto that people must follow to be considered an artist.

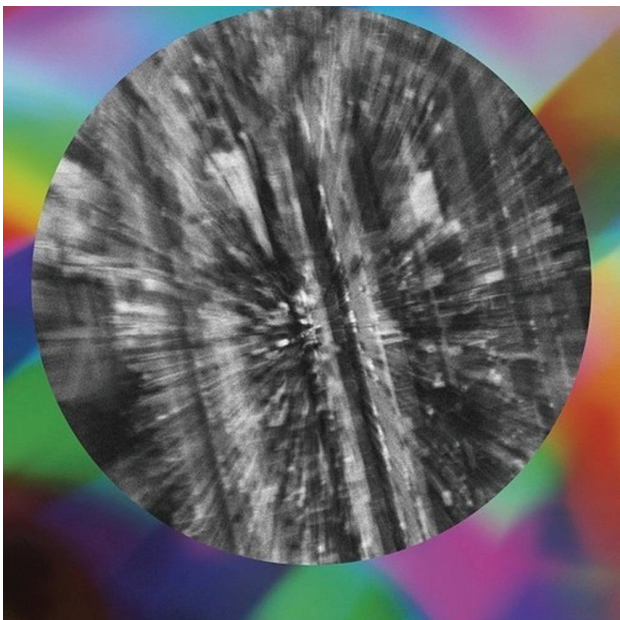
But what if we did create manifestos for people to follow if they wanted to be considered true artists? We

would then be creating a system for qualifying art. A system based on qualifying personal expression can be harmful to the creator because their truest ideas will be censored by public opinion.

Banksy has become a forerunner in the message conscious art sphere. He produces art that is not only aesthetically pleasing but also has a subversive message. This is a relatively new phenomena in the artistic field. There have been several types of artists who create beautiful pieces but lack a meaning. Banksy carefully arranges his messages to tie into the aesthetic of his piece much like Sharon Needles, Marina Abramović, and Jess Dobkin.

FOUR TET: *BEAUTIFUL REWIND*

BY REILY COOK



Four Tet is the stage name of British electronic musician Kieran Hebden. In October of 2013, his seventh studio album, *Beautiful Rewind* was released. The album has Four Tet following in a similar trend to his latest efforts, applying a heavy house influence on his typically sample-composed music. Most tracks are extremely

condensed, packed tightly with layers of rhythms, instrument samples, and percussive voices. These tracks occasionally feel overwhelming, but they never reach a point too cluttered to be enjoyable.

The denser tracks on the album – “Gong” “Kool FM” and “Aerial” – balance a fine line between chaos and organization, bedlam and harmony. So while these tracks can make you feel like you’re teetering on the edge of an abyss, ready to fall into a musical mush, that moment never quite comes. For some people, however, even teetering on the edge of cacophony may be too much. Upon repeat listens, the hand holding you from falling over seems to have a tighter grip.

Four Tet’s first big success came in the wake of his 2001 release *Pause*, which featured the first heavy use of sampled acoustic instruments in electronic music. The homely, tender element this brought to the otherwise hard-edged and danceable beats inspired music fans and critics alike to coin a new genre – folktronica. While this term has since had a falling out among electronic musicians, the term could aptly describe the other tracks on this album – softer tracks that harken back to the earlier days. Tracks like “Parallel Jalebi” and “Unicorn” sample pianos, harps, and crystalline analog synthesizers. These more delicate tracks are interspersed between the more chaotic tracks, and I doubt that was an accident. The album flows without ever feeling too soft or too overwhelming.

The ultimate question when looking at this album as an electronica release is: does it serve its purpose as a dance album, as a head-nodding and rhythmically-propelled album? Four Tet has been referred to as an “intellectual man’s” electronic artist. That is, he has all the principles covered of music worth dancing to, blasting bass and all, but has a certain integrity to it that appeals to listening through headphones, head subtly nodding. I think the term holds true through this album. It certainly can be blasted and danced to, but with a nice set of head phones, one can appreciate the finer intricacies Four Tet has crafted into the songs.

This isn’t dubstep – there are no over-indulgent drops, no perilously long snare hits, and no jumpy-verging-on-schizophrenic synthesizers. While that’s all fine and good, Four Tet resists those lurid, artificial colorings that compel many modern electronic artists. The music has a human element that only the acoustic instruments can provide. And while it may not make appropriate for some on nights where total upheaval of reality is desired – where excess and flamboyance are invited – it makes for a beautiful respite for the day that follows those nights.

Beautiful Rewind may not provide much of an escape for some electronic fans, but it brings forth a greater awareness of the human element in electronic music – something too often ignored.



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PLUS DE PARIS

BY OLIVIA JOHNSON

Toward the end of his life, Ernest Hemingway wrote *A Moveable Feast* as a remembrance of his life as an expatriate. Though it is known that Hemingway spent much of his life depressed, particularly at its close, *A Moveable Feast* is a story of happy reminiscence and an idealized recounting of Paris. For him, Paris was the star amid a dark sky.

Hemingway, however, was not the only American to imagine Paris as the answer to all their questions about life; T.S. Eliot, Ezra Pound, Gertrude Stein, Henry James, and Edith Wharton are just a few that spent significant time living in Paris. Obviously Paris has something special that America lacks – longer history, rich culture, and foreign ideals. Whatever it is, Americans cannot seem to find it at home; ask any American teenager where they’d like to visit most and they will likely say Paris. The call to Europeanize is one born in Americans, and Centenary

agrees.

The announcement of the Centenary in Paris program begs the question for many, why Paris? Centenary already offers a module to Paris, an opportunity open to all students. So what makes Paris so special that it alone will prepare incoming freshmen for college and make them better-rounded? In Woody Allen’s 2011 film *Midnight in Paris*, an American writer finds his inspiration; the 1951 musical *An American in Paris* finds love in the City of Lights during World War II. Instances of Americans finding happiness in Paris are everywhere in our culture; it is no wonder that we grow up idealizing life in Europe so strongly.

Perhaps there really is something unimaginable about life in Paris that one can only discover after seeing it for himself. But, will 10 days in the mysterious city of love open students’ eyes so they enter college enriched and hungry for more? Perhaps for some, but others may merely end up like Jacob Barnes, Hemingway’s main character in *The Sun Also Rises* – tired and hung-over.

ROBINSON: NOW PLAYING

BY AMANDA CURRIER

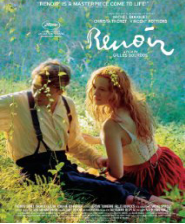
Populaire, 1958. Rose is a terrible secretary but a demon typist. Her handsome boss resolves to turn her into the fastest girl in the world. Begins November 8.



Haute Cuisine, The story of Danièle Delpeuch and how she was appointed as the private chef for François Mitterrand. Begins November 8.



Renoir, Set on the French Riviera in the summer of 1915,



Jean Renoir returns home to convalesce after being wounded in World War I. At his side is Andrée, a young woman who rejuvenates, enchants, and inspires both father and son. Begins November 8.



Thérèse, An unhappily married woman struggles to break free from social pressures. November 8

DON'T BE A MISER, SEE A FREE PLAY!

BY TYLER SANDERS

The Miser is a play written by the French playwright Moliere that details the lives of an affluent French family. The father, Harpagon, has recently lost his wife and wants to marry himself to a beautiful young woman named Mariane. However, his only son Cléante is devoted to this young woman. Harpagon also wishes

to marry his daughter to a rich and Élise to a rich man of his choosing, Seigneur Anselme. As with his son, his daughter is in love with Valère a man who has taken a steward position in the estate to be close to Elise. To find out how these conflicts are resolved, go to the Marjorie Lyons Playhouse on November 14-17 and find out!

THANK YOU...

Thank you, library thermostat, for reminding me that I wouldn’t survive in the Tundra.

Thank you, Centenary sidewalks, for reminding me several times a day that gravity still exists.

Thank you, leftover chicken, for letting me save food to throw away later.

Thank you, bookstore, for always carrying the one book I don’t need.

Thank you, carpet, for holding that stale pretzel for me. I’ve been looking for that for weeks.

Thank you, clearance sales, for making us feel smart for wasting our money.

Thank you, Centenary sprinklers, for keeping the sidewalks hydrated.

Thank you, Mickle soda machine, for keeping me off caffeine by consistently eating my \$1.25

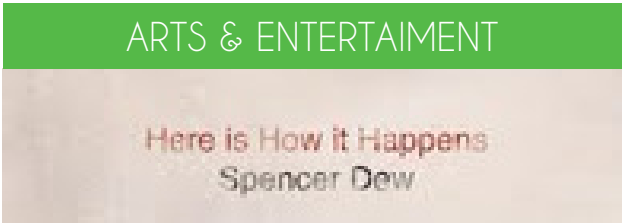
Thank you, flu shot, for never letting me know whether I actually needed you.

Thank you, Caf pizza, for making sure I never starve.

GREENHOUSE CINEMA

BY BETHANY NUTTALL

This semester students in the Centenary GreenHouse have organized themselves into various groups with different goals. One of these groups aims to educate students on campus about sustainability related issues by showing a different movie every month in Hardin. The movie for the month of November is called *Manufactured Landscapes*. It follows a photographer who travels the world documenting what he has termed “manufactured landscapes” i.e., slag heaps, e-waste dumps, and miles upon miles of high rise buildings in developing countries. From the opening scene until the credits, we can guarantee you will be astounded at where your products come from and where they go. The perspective this film offers must be seen to be completely understood. The students of GreenHouse hope that you will join them this month, November 14th at 9 pm, to watch this paradigm-shifting film! As always, awesome food and people will be provided!



HERE IS HOW IT HAPPENS



6 HIGH HOPES FOR MEN'S BASKETBALL



2 WOMEN'S WINTER TRENDS

7

THE CONGLOMERATE

DECEMBER 2013

EDITORIAL: CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT SHOULD BE INCLUSIVE

Last year, those who attended the Christmas candlelight service were eligible to receive 100 Passport Points. Despite the fact that the Methodist church tends to promote a “come as you are” vibe, the Christmas candlelight service is irrevocably religious/Christian in nature, and there was no alternate opportunity for students who weren’t of the Christian faith. This is unacceptable at an institution that claims to promote diversity and freethinking, and this year should be different. Ideally, the Christmas candlelight service would be an inclusive event that catered to people of all religions as well as those who identify secular or nonreligious. However, the next best thing would be the presence of a secular alternative for those who wouldn’t feel comfortable or honest attending the candlelight service.

According to the article entitled “Straying The Flock,” which appears in the Fall 2013 issue of En-circle, only around 15 percent of Centenary students are “Committed Traditionalists” in regards to their religion; this group presumably includes Christians as well as people of other faiths. Other than those, approximately 30 percent are “Selectively Adherents;” 25 percent are “Religiously Indifferent;” 15 percent are “Spiritually Open;” ten percent are “Irreligious Adults;” and five percent are “Religiously Disconnected.”

So while about 85 undergraduate students are definitely served by the candlelight service and the Passport Points associated with it, the rest are up in the air. And, according to Centenary’s own “Equal Oppor-



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tunity” statement, this is unacceptable. “The College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, national of ethnic origin, religion, gender, age, marital status, veteran’s status, disability or sexual orientation in the administration of its educational policies, recruit-

ment or admission of students, scholarships, grant or loan programs, athletic or other College-administered programs, employment procedures, training programs, promotion policies or other related personnel practices” (emphasis added).

The ideal solution would be to alter the candlelight service. The idea of campus coming together to celebrate family and generosity is a wonderful one, and to create two separate events would only be divisive. Is there a valid reason why the candlelight service couldn’t actively respect people of all religious backgrounds? It wouldn’t be traditional, of course, but we shouldn’t let tradition stand in the way of inclusion and unity.

But it would be understandable if the Christian population on campus objected to this idea of alteration. And, of course, the College’s Methodist affiliation would support the traditional service. So, Plan B: offer another, secular opportunity for students to earn those 100 Passport Points. It would have to be an either/or ordeal, of course, to keep things fair, and while this seems detrimental and counterproductive, it would be the next best solution.

If you agree that the candlelight service is exclusive and the monetary reward associated with attendance is discriminatory and unfair, speak up. Write your SGA representatives. Drop by the Office of the Chaplain. Urge Global Engagements to consider carefully where they offer Passport Points. Christians and non-Christians alike should care about the inclusivity and unity of our school.

GOLF TEAM: SMALL SIZE, BIG EXPECTATIONS

BY HANNAH STILL

This season the golf teams have two contrasting sizes, the women’s team with only five and the men’s with 8 members in total. After chatting with a member of our own Ladies Golf Team hear at Centenary, we at the Conglomerate have found that size matters sometimes.

According to Sarah Bradshaw, the size of the Ladies’ team is relatively small in comparison to the Gents’, with only five members on the team. “Small is not new to us,” she told the Conglomerate, “that is the way it has been for the past few years. Having a small time assures that the team will make connections with each other and be there to offer each other support when



they need it, thus strengthening the bond. Stronger bonds mean a stronger team. This connectedness acts as

a strength for the team because in moments of weakness they will be there to help each other when they need it.

However, Sarah told us “it would definitely be nice if we had a couple of more people in case people get hurt or they are sick”. In the event that a player is hurt or must meet some other obligation, the team would be lacking a member and there would be no one to fill their spot.

Despite their small size, Sarah and the rest of her team are looking forward to this upcoming season. “This season has and will be amazing,” Sarah exclaimed, “I cannot wait for the things to come this spring season!” Her buzzing positivity assure us that their small size will be no deterrent in the team’s efforts this year.

HIGH HOPES FOR MEN’S BASKETBALL

BY CHRISTINE LANGSTON



The men’s basketball team has had much hype this semester around it. The rumor is that the players are going to be very good this season, which has had the Centenary community very excited.

Coach Walsh, head coach of the men’s basketball team, says, “We have the best team chemistry since I took over the program and we have the most returning experience and leadership that we have had in years,” which is promising for a team that has struggled through the last couple semesters since the switch from Division 1 to Division 3.

We have several returners who are ready to lead the

team and really contribute to the team and play for the team, not just themselves.

Coach Walsh also states, “being in the conference for a second straight year is something new for us and should help us as we have a certain level of familiarity with the teams we will face” which gives an advantage compared with previous years.

Overall, everyone is very excited about the upcoming season this year and we have high hopes for the team’s potential. We have a more mature team, with a lot of talent, and we have more experience against the teams in our conference. This will give us a big advantage this season.

TENNIS LOW IN NUMBERS

CHRISTINE LANGSTON

The tennis team this year had a lot of changes. The team lost their coach and had to find a new one. They had to scramble to get players for this year. And they are still struggling in numbers.

The tennis team’s new coach is wonderful; he is a very caring, very passionate individual, who focuses very much on recruiting. Unfortunately, the coach before him did not have the same feeling towards recruiting. This left the tennis team with almost no players this year due to graduating seniors and a lack of incoming freshmen to take their places. Head Coach Owens had to go around campus this semester and attempt to recruit current students to join the tennis team, men’s and women’s. I can still remember him asking me if I played tennis, if I wanted to, and that it didn’t matter if I had never played before, he just needed a team.

From what I can tell by the roster posted online, it looks like his method was successful. He has managed to recruit 7 men and 6 women. This is still a fairly small team, but it is better than only 2-3, men’s and women’s combined, that he started out the year with. I wish the tennis team the best of luck as they begin their season next semester, and I wish them further luck in recruiting for next year, and maybe even for next semester.

KEEP YOUR ROSARIES OFF MY OVARIES

BY TYLER SANDERS

Women have for so long felt the unnecessary pressure to suppress their experience with abortion. This is coupled with mounting pressure on legislature to continue implementing restrictions on their rights to even have an abortion. With more and more of these restrictions slowly beginning to become cemented into law, women are experiencing the indomitable loss of personal autonomy.

Mississippi and North Dakota are living the bleak reality that comes from the government harassing abortion clinics with frivolous allegations. The state government in North Dakota first began its assault on the last abortion clinic in Fargo by forcing the doctors in residency to obtain hospital-admitting privileges. This forces the abortion doctors to gain a membership of a hospital staff to provide therapeutic and diagnostic services to patients.

Afterwards, the next step that the government took was to prosecute any women who attempted to have an abortion when a fetal heartbeat could be detected. This further restricts the ability of women to have an abortion as a fetal heartbeat can be found at 6 weeks. Many women do not realize they are pregnant at 6 weeks.

The North Dakota state government pressured many public schools to abandon their support for an after school program that would have allowed at-risk youth to have access to family-planning services and

required the participants to enlist of their own will with parental permission. The loss of family planning services for teens only contributes to the problem of a rising abortion rate.

Mississippi, North Dakota, and now New Orleans Louisiana are all facing the same problem: more and more abortion clinics are being shut down, such as the Midtown Medical Center, which, before being forced into closing their doors, experienced harassment from the local government. Maria Couveas who was the owner of Midtown began to experience the same problems that abortion clinics are facing in other parts of the country. The Department of Public Health are performing irrelevant audits and inspections.

“They (Louisiana’s Department of Health and Hospitals) really came after me in 2011,” Maria said. “Bam bam bam, one right after the other.” Each time that these inspections occurred, it was rarely ever proven that they were collecting quantifiable mistakes. With more and more harassment happening, the clinic’s normal modes of revenue were being obstructed and quickly making the running of the clinic impossible. Midtown Medical closed its doors on January 3, 2013.

With more and more clinics being forced to close their doors to the patients who desperately need the care, we are seeing the problem that many pro-life advocates are creating. By restricting a woman’s ability to obtain a legal and reliable abortion, we are creating rising rates of illegal abortions and are contributing to the rising amount of unwanted infants in the system.

TIPS FOR CAMPUS SAFETY

BY PARRISH MASTERS

These few tips will cover more than the expected advice, “Do not walk alone at night.” That’s not to say that this isn’t a very good tip; it’s to say that I will be giving tips that are less mentioned around campus, so that we can all become more knowledgeable about our safety.

Want to protect your property? You might try locking your door when you leave, even if you’re only gone for less than a minute. I’m often guilty of forgetting this. If you’re walking down the hall to talk to a friend, lock your door. If you’re going to do laundry, lock your door. If you’re going to class, and your door’s not locked, you’re practically asking to be robbed at that point. Lock your doors.

Anyone can walk into your room by the time you get back from talking to your friend or from doing your laundry. It doesn’t take long to pick up a laptop and walk away with it. You’re dorm room is basically your entire house in college, so treat it the way you would treat your home.

It’s probably a good idea to have your Student I.D. handy when you’re almost to your dorm as well. Having to fumble through your purse or though each of your many pockets at the door, in essence, makes you a target for a thief. You’ll be distracted and unsuspecting of your surrounding because you’ll be so focused on trying to get inside. Avoid this by having your Student I.D. ready to scan at-the-door.

HOW TO DO WELL AT THE END OF THE SEMESTER

BY CHRISTINE LANGSTON

Alright kids, we are nearing the end of the fall semester! For many of you this may be your first fall semester, and for many, like me, it may be your last semester. You have worked so hard to get here and to be doing well in your classes, so maybe you think, “Oh I have a little wiggle room in my grade, I’m tired, maybe I’ll go to sleep instead of doing this homework. One missed homework grade/class/assignment won’t kill my grade right?”

Wrong! Because once you do it one time, it sits in the back of your mind how much time you had when you didn’t go to class or do that homework assignment. Then, you will be tempted to do it again, and next thing you know you have 10 missing homework assignments and you have missed 4 classes, which can then bring your test grades down because you didn’t do the neces-

sary work before the test.

Look, I know it’s very hard to resist this temptation; I’m fighting it myself. But you have to remember you get a week off for Thanksgiving Break and then two weeks after that you get three weeks off for Christmas Break. YOU CAN DO IT! Stay strong and kick that little voice in your head telling you to stay in bed out and go to class and do your homework. Remember—especially you, freshman—it’s easier to lower your GPA than it is to raise it, so your best bet is to start off with as high of a GPA as you can, so that when you start the harder classes, you actually do have a little wiggle room and can afford a C, so you don’t have to panic about losing a scholarship or not being able to play your sport because your GPA is too low.

So, go get some coffee or Five Hour Energy or a Red Bull and keep working hard. I know this time of year is stressful and it is easier to blow things off, but keep

your goal grade in mind and enlist your friends for help as well! Tell them that if they see you slacking, they are allowed to call you out on it and tell you to get back to work (Hey, it’s better than your parents telling you right?!). Work in study groups, or even just go to the library with your friends so that you will actually get work done and not be tempted to crawl in bed and take a nap. If you are with other people who are also doing their homework, you will be forced to do yours because no one is talking. Set a time for breaks, a good rule is the 50/10 Rule: work hard with no distractions and then take a break for ten minutes. You will be surprised at how effective this method truly is.

Overall, find a method that works for you and get back to working hard. Stay calm and remember the light at the end of the tunnel is close. Soon you will be done and will be home for Christmas, relaxing by the fireplace, not thinking about schoolwork at all!

MAKE GOOD CHOICES

BY OLIVIA JOHNSON

Allow me to be the thousandth (and not the last) to tell you that you are going to regret what you do in your youthful years. Some of us already can look back at that post-graduation-seniors-2k12-we-rule party and say, “I should not have done that.” Those who can’t probably have more than a couple friends who share that sentiment of remorse. But here’s the thing: you don’t have to regret that last shot of tequila.

Happiness, sadness, fear, and anger are the four basic emotions; any other emotions are offshoots of the four basics. So what is regret? It could be sadness or anger that your life didn’t turn out the way you’d hoped. It could also be fear that you’ll just keep making the same mistakes and end up regretting your whole life. But you can choose to embrace the bad decision. When you do, regret will dissipate. In its place comes happiness.

Choosing the way you feel about things, though? Easier said than done. But there are steps you can take to help you make better bad decisions. Not everything fun is bad for you and ignoring all of you crazy impulses will only make bored and boring. What, then, can you do?

Define “bad”: Jumping from the roof of your buddy’s house into the pool shouting, “I am a golden god”: potentially incredibly dangerous and makes you look like kind of an idiot. Limit “bad decisions” to what will harm you. Doing something stupid but harmless is fine. It makes life fun and exciting. But anything that could break more than one or any vital bones, inspire addiction, scar organs, or kill you – think more than twice.

Make bad choices sober: Of course, there’s nothing wrong with a little social lubricant. However, the human brain has a beautiful little thing called the prefrontal cortex. It controls decision-making. In young adulthood, your prefrontal cortex still may not be totally developed. That’s why you were such an idiot in high school – you were supposed to be. But, not surprisingly, alcohol slows down the prefrontal cortex and physically inhibits good decision-making. So rather than get totally trashed before deciding to ghost-ride on your friend’s Corolla, make the conscious decision to make a bad decision. You’ll remember it better as a fun time and you won’t have a headache in the morning.

Of course, the best way to not make choices you’ll regret is to always be a responsible adult. But where’s the fun in that?

STREAKING FOR FEMINISM

BY PARRISH MASTERS

Who would’ve thought that streaking could be related to feminism?

According to a Huffington Post article by Chris Greenberg, “Kimberly Webster felt that females were underrepresented in the world of streaking.”

Kimberly said that she searched for the most famous streakers online and noticed that all of them were men. As a result of this underrepresentation, Webster developed a plan to change that. At the President’s Cup, a golf tournament in Dublin, Webster decided to make what she considers the most boring sport more entertaining by stripping down to a red thong and some patriotic pasties to cover her nipples. She carried an American flag and trailed it behind her as she ran. She certainly drew international interest.

Webster was fined \$100 by the Dublin authorities for disorderly conduct, but she managed to make even this situation more interesting. Before going forward with her plan to streak at the President’s Cup, Webster consulted a friend of hers, who happens to be a police officer.

Webster asked about the charges she would face and what she was going to get herself into if she were caught. Her friend told her that he’d cover the fines and the bail if she went through with her plan, so Webster was able to streak worry free!

It isn’t clear yet whether or not Webster will be added to list of most famous streakers, but given the international attention that she’s received, I think it’s safe to assume that she’s established another victory for feminists around the globe, bringing female representation to a historically male-dominated field.

Would any Centenary students (or faculty, no one’s judging) like to be added to the most famous list of streakers? Maybe you could draw some inspiration from Webster’s run.

THE CONGLOMERATE ... STAFF ...

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Ellen Orr

EDITORIAL STAFF
Reily Cook
Amanda Currier
Olivia Johnson
Christine Langston
Parrish Masters
Adam Stephens

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Tyler Sanders
Hannah Still
Katy Pitts

PHOTOGRAPHERS
Amanda Currier
John Michael Alost

LAYOUT DESIGNER
Gina Vaca Loyola

A REFLECTION ON COMMUNITY SERVICE THROUGH YOUR COLLEGE

BY CHRISTINE LANGSTON

As someone who has had to do countless hours of community service throughout my four years here at Centenary due to my involvement in gymnastics and my service learning course (required to graduate), I feel that being made to do community service through your college is a wonderful thing. It not only gives back to the community, but it gets your college’s name out there, which helps recruiting. And it can be a ton of fun! There have been many times when I have dreaded going to community service events but after I left, I realized how much of an impact we college students can have on a community, especially when working with kids or younger adults.

Every time I’ve done volunteer work with a group of children, I have left feeling like I really did make a difference in those lives. For example, this past May I volunteered with the Latino Culture May Module with Dr. Demerath. The kids were all middle school age, and the majority of them hadn’t even thought of going to college before they came to visit Centenary. After we gave them a tour of the school and then just hung out with them for a while, many of them said that they were actually really considering going to college. We, of course, encouraged this and encouraged them to work hard in their studies as well as their sport (many of them played soccer). As a student athlete, I could tell them that, if they worked hard enough in both areas, they could have all or most of their college paid for, a key point since



many of them came from lower income families. It left all of us feeling as though we had made a real difference in these kids’ lives, and we still keep in contact with many of them to this day!

So, while many people may not feel like it is right to force college students to volunteer through their college, I feel like it is a wonderful standard to set; since Centenary is part of the community it is in, why not help make it cleaner or help the children or even elders in it? Even if you don’t get anything out of it, you may touch someone’s life and change it for the better just by simply hanging out with that person, old or young.

QUEER AND ANSWER

BY SAM WHITTINGTON & OUTREACH

Why does the term trans always have a * at the end?

Well, trans (without an asterisk) refers to either trans men or trans women. The important thing to note here is that both of these terms are fixed on the gender binary. Not everyone stays still on the binary; some move back and forth, so are both at the same time, and some aren’t even on there at all. This is when the asterisk comes in. Trans* refers to all non-cisgender gender identities, including transgender, transsexual, transvestite, genderqueer, genderfluid, non-binary, genderless, agender, non-gendered, third gender, two-spirit, bigender, and trans man and trans woman.

Why do so many women who were self-declared lesbians in college end up marrying men?

Well, something that needs to be crystal clear is that *most* people don’t fall in love with a certain set of genitalia. Most folks fall in love with a person, and their personality, beauty, and intelligence. And it just so happens that in some cases, it doesn’t matter what’s in between their legs, they will still love that person. What I’m trying to say is that sexuality can be, and in many cases is, fluid. Another way of wording this is by saying that these previously identifying lesbians could possibly now identify as bisexual and/or pansexual.

MAN ON THE STREET: WHAT’S YOUR FAVORITE MEMORY ABOUT CENTENARY?



AMANDA CURRIER



AMANDA CURRIER



AMANDA CURRIER

“Having Disney movie night with my hall-mate” - Ammiee Brown

“Cheering on the Ladies and Gents at games” -Tianna Brown

“Spending time with Nikki Duvall and Merritt Harrelson” -Emilie Harmeyer

ORGANIZE YOUR LIFE

BY OLIVIA JOHNSON

In preparation for finals, I’m here to give you another round of clichéd advice: get organized. Seriously. Everybody always says it and I’m going to say it again. Get your mess together.

And now you’re saying, “I don’t need to get organized. I’m totally functional with this pile of books on my desk and mess of papers in that drawer. I know where everything is.” No, loser. You don’t. Finals is coming around yet again and it’s time to finally do it right. How? I’ll tell you.

First, get a planner and write stuff down religiously. So many times have I written down assignments for the first few days of classes and then let the rest of the year remain blank. Write down your assignments on paper all in one place, so aren’t constantly frantic about what’s due when. When you organize it on paper, it goes into your head organized.

Another important

thing is to throw away stuff you don’t need. The four fliers for bingo night are no longer of use to you – recycle that. Once you get rid of all the stuff you don’t need, separate all the stuff you do need. Any note you ever took for a class should be kept and all your material for each class should be kept separate. You’d think

I wouldn’t have to tell you this, but some of you still throw papers loosely into your backpack like you’re in middle school and don’t know what a folder is. How are you going to study effectively if you can’t even find your coursework? Get it together.

Now let’s talk about your desk. Cuten it up! For

those of you who like frilly stuff with daisies and polka dots, go to Office Max and shell out a little bit of cash for desk organizers that will last you a long time and keep you interested. If your desk is neat and pretty, you might actually want to sit at it. Buy neon colored Post-its to grab your attention and mark the really important stuff. For those of you who like to keep it simple, simply neaten up your desk and maybe throw a pillow on that chair. The key to doing work is to create an environment in which you actually want to do it.

Seems easy, right? It totally is. When your desk is neater, your life is, too.



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Finals week is upon us, and let me be the first to say: thank Whomever that this semester is almost over. It seems that everyone I know is drowning in school, work, and personal issues, and I for one am burning out quickly. The busyness is getting to me. Not only have I been swamped with classes and editor-in-chief duties, I’ve also been raising money for Invisible Childrent (the nonprofit that produced “Kony: 2012” and is devoted to rescuing and rehabilitating child soldiers in central Africa).

This past August, I attended a conference in Los Angeles held by Invisible Children called the Fourth Estate Leadership Summit. I left California knowing that I had to spread myself a little thinner: I had to fundraise. I pledged to raise \$5,000 by the end of the calendar year; this money would directly fund on-the-ground programs that had been proven successful. Hearing the stories and statistics yet again pushed me to action. I was determined to make a difference.

So I set up a fundraising page. The current campaign is called “#zeroLRA,” and the rally cry is simple: “Stand for nothing: no child soldiers, no killing, no war. Celebrate everything: every escape, every name every life.” With those words on my heart, I’ve worked my butt off. Through holding raffles, babysitting, tutoring, on-campus work, and baking cookies for donors, I’ve

raised almost \$2,500. After four months, I’m almost halfway to my goal.

Which means I have less than four weeks to raise the second half.

When I realized this, I had a bit of a crisis. I panicked. I had pledged—*promised*—to raise \$5,000, enough money to provide an escaped child soldier with trauma counseling and rehabilitation treatment. And now it looked like I wasn’t going to come through. My heart sunk with guilt and disappointment. I did what any despairing 19-year-old social media addict would do: I posted a Facebook status.

Within the next six hours, my page received \$284 in donations from seven different donors. And I was bombarded with words of encouragement, wisdom, optimism, and faith. My community rallied around me to remind me that, regardless of the numbers, regardless of everything else, my efforts, relationships, and successes were something to be excited about.

I realized then that, all semester, I’ve focused very heavily on “standing for nothing,” but I’d been a slacker in the celebration department. One of the neatest things about Invisible Children as an organization is that their mantras are global; they apply to just about every facet of life. “Celebrate everything” is a message that should be tattooed on the inside of my eyelids. Seriously, if I’d

made a conscious effort to celebrate every glorious thing in my life, I’d be at a much saner place at this point. We all would, I think. The Centenary community is full of people who work hard, stay busy, fight the good fights, and stand up for what’s right. But we don’t celebrate enough. One of my humanitarian activists Sophia Bush said that “for every step we march, we should also dance.”

So here’s how I’m going to finish out Fall 2013: I’m celebrating my lackluster grades, because, hey, they’re passing. I’m celebrating my fundraising success, because even if I don’t reach my goal, I still will have made a difference. I’m celebrating the revitalization of this newspaper and the absolutely incredible staff we have built. And I’m celebrating Centenary College, even though I seriously thought school was going to kill me this semester, because this place, even on the craziest of days, is worth celebrating.

I hope you all survive Finals Week and keep your eyes on the prize—Christmas Break. That is definitely something to celebrate.

Editor-in-Chief
Ellen Orr

WHEN YOU ARE ENGULFED IN SHREVEPORT WITH DAVID SEDARIS

BY REILY COOK



Friday, October 25th, David Sedaris visited The Strand in Shreveport. Lately, he’s been roaming around the country in support of his new book, *Let’s Discover Diabetes with Owls*, and before he even stated he was coming towards the end of the tour, it was clear he was a little more than tired. As if to vent his exhaustion of constantly being on the road, he opened the night with a tirade on southern retail culture. He languished the constant and insincere “How are you’s?” thrown at him whenever he would shack-up at a hotel for the night. He griped that the clerks at the coffee counter in southern

airports are always trying to upsell him a Danish or doughnut with his coffee (“You know, I wasn’t too shy to order the coffee,” he quips). I suppose he felt justified making these remarks, not in the least because he’s from North Carolina himself. But it came off as peevish and spoiled to me, as though Sedaris had spent so long with his head in the clouds that he forgot the rest of us are back down here on earth, shoveling dirt any way we can to make our money.

Fortunately, after the initial tirade, Sedaris transitioned into more familiar language, the kind of sentimental humor that initially drew me to his work and led me to read *When You Are Engulfed in Flames*. His humor is somewhat self-deprecating, always intimate, and grounded in a quickly identifiable reality. For the rest of that chilly Friday night, he was the man behind the counter, and instead of complaining when life gave him lemons, he started painting the lemons gold.

The back of my tattered, library-worn copy of *When You Are Engulfed in Flames* proudly states that Sedaris’s books have been published and translated into over a dozen different languages. That is something to be proud of, especially in humorous works, where translations and culture barriers make the laugh-out-loud moments something of a confusion (ask fans of either series of *The Office* about which they thought was better; you’ll see what I mean). Other times, translations can make things funnier than they should be (as the Scandinavian vacuum cleaner company Electrolux has taught us with their English translation—“Nothing sucks like an Electrolux!”).

Regardless of translation, *When You Are Engulfed*

in Flames is extremely funny in good old English; David Sedaris is extremely funny—whether listening to him on that chilly Friday night in The Strand or reading his book, he had me laughing. It seems to be his keen sense of the universally resonant in people – family, individuality, wishing you didn’t really have that strange friend (how did you ever become friends to begin with?) – that makes him an incredibly successful essayist and humorist. He creates little spoonfuls of empathy and laughter that go down smooth, and rarely ever does he miss the mark. In a book like *When You Are Engulfed in Flames*, those moments when he misses the joke are just tiny intermissions between fits of laughter that will make you want to throw the book down into your lap, throw your head back, and say “I know, right?” He’s not there to hear you, but it doesn’t seem to matter.

He stood, a tiny, solitary figure, on stage at The Strand that Friday night, and blue light cascaded across the red velvet curtains behind him, turning them a strange shade of purple. The audience was packed full of heads bobbing with laughter and recognition, and the typically-golden Strand seemed the perfect fit for Sedaris. It was a great night, and the rhythmic transitions between talk and laughter reminded me more of an orchestra than a lecture or reading.

Even after reading Sedaris and listening to him, I can’t say I know any better about what I’d do when engulfed in flames; simply caught on fire, sure (stop, drop, and roll, baby). But engulfed in flames? I’ve still got no clue. But after laughing along with David Sedaris, I’m content to know I’m not the only one who doesn’t have a clue.

HERE IS HOW IT HAPPENS

BY REILY COOK

Dr. Spencer Dew is a professor of religious studies at Centenary. Courtney and Martin are two aimless Ohioans yearning to discover what life is really about, if it can be about anything at all (beyond beer-drunk Friday nights and taking care of poor house plants). What does Dr. Dew have to do with these two characters, you ask? Well, he created them. Courtney and Martin are the main characters in Dr. Spencer Dew’s recently published novel *Here is How it Happens*. This past November, Dr. Dew read from his new book at the English department’s monthly Colloquium to announce its arrival in physical form.

The novel pulses along rhythmically and patiently as Courtney and Martin’s grimy lives in an Ohio town unfold and occasionally collapse. The miscreant escapades we’re introduced to in the first chapter set a mood and tone that grips tight, blanketing the reader in not just a story but an abstract feeling. It can’t quite be described in words, it simply has to be experienced in *Here is How it Happens*. The book is extremely poetic; Dr. Dew credits the tone of the novel to all of the poetry he was reading at the time. A more oblique influence was the Chicago writing scene. Reading performances were a big part of the scene, and the rhythmic prose many writers recited would eventually have an effect on Dr. Dew as he wrote *Here is How it Happens*. The two halves make a

whole in the novel, keeping a rhythm tighter than any four-to-the-floor kick-drum could.

What struck me about the book is its resonance within my own life and likely within many Centenary students’ lives. After all, its main characters attend a small college. And really, that sense of resonance is what Dr. Dew set out to do with the novel, to create an encompassing sense of mood, feeling, and nostalgia. Its ability to resonate with both college students and college graduates gives the book a nearly universal appeal.

Nostalgia for those college days past was a large factor in the creation of the novel. The book’s main characters and setting originally began as a way for Dr. Dew to creatively express all of the nostalgia he felt for his own college experience. “I remember being with my friends and feeling like we could do anything—after going to our classes and drinking some coffee first, of course,” he said.

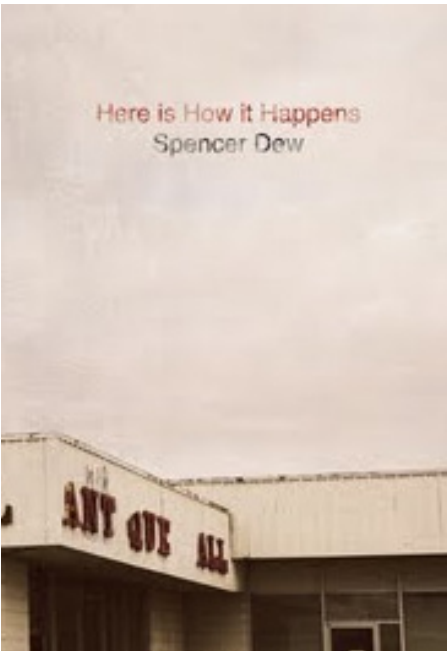
Even the point of view has roots in the experiences of Dew’s college years. “I was writing letters to people,” he said. “And as we would exchange them I noticed how much more engaging and compelling that second-person point of view seemed to be than what I was using in the story.” In that sense, the book seems to be an homage to small college days.

The Ohio college town setting may not have been where Dr. Dew or most of the novel’s readers grew up, but the keen sense of location leaves the reader feeling

nostalgic for the place nonetheless. That encapsulating mood was always the goal of *Here is How it Happens*. Story and characters were important, but they took a backseat to the tone.

What started out as a couple of pages written in a college creative writing workshop became much more over the course of nearly fifteen years. The manuscript became a living organism, evolving along with Dew until its final, incarnate state.

Most students on Centenary’s campus know Dr. Dew as a religious studies professor. But perhaps it’s not a bad idea to get to know him as a writer as well. He’s published more than a few, and all have been well-received. Who knows, you might just get bonus points.



WOMEN’S WINTER TRENDS

BY HANNAH STILL

Here it is! The second installment of fashion trends for 2013. We at the Conglomerate have come up with a few winter trends to help guide you this cold season. From sweaters to tights, you’re sure to stay warm as well as fashion forward this winter.

Floral Sweaters: Floral isn’t just for spring; it has transitioned into winter, too. Casual and cute, floral sweaters offer a bright, feminine touch to the usually drab colors of the winter season. Pair it with a round skirt or some opaque leggings and you’re good to go. They’re really cute when oversized, and they give so much extra warmth than smaller sweaters do. It’s functional all while adding some springtime sweetness to the cold and drabness of the season.

Sheer Black Tights: You know that you’ll want to wear your favorite dresses this winter. It’s really awful and not fun to sport dresses in the winter time without proper legwear. Last year this big thing was opaque tights, but this year sheer tights are making a comeback. The sheerness adds an unexpected twist to your outfit and also helps shelter your legs from the frigid air. They can be worn with shorts and boots too, making a

seemingly summer outfit into something for the winter. If you’re not really into tights, you can always wear leggings, too. These go great with combat boots, which will cover the space between your foot and where the leggings ends.

Studded Beanies: If you’re a hat person, this trend is for you. Beanies are a great way to hide a disheveled bed head after a late night study session before an 8 am class. The studs add some toughness, and would be great paired with something more feminine, like a dress or a floral scarf. They come in a variety of colors and neutrals; you can probably find one to go with everything. And due to the versatile nature of this particular headwear, you could always roll the beanie up on some days to hide the studs, just in case you aren’t feeling too tough. They also keep your head warm!

Skater Dresses: They come with long sleeves, too, don’t worry! Modeled after an ice-skater’s skirted costume, the aptly named skater skirt features a scoop-neck head opening, three quarter’s length sleeves, with an a-line skirt that nips in at the waist. This ultra-cute silhouette is flattering on all bodies, sure to enhance that hourglass shape. They can be found from Forever 21 to the nearest Target and are a basic that everyone



should at least consider buying. They look great paired with a belt or scarf, and you can throw on a cardigan and some leggings for extra warmth. They’re a classic, and look great on every body type.

Whether you’re running from class to class, or enjoying some coffee while studying for finals last minute at Rhino, you’ll stay warm with these super easy, adorable trends to inspire you this Winter. Stay warm and enjoy!

MEN’S WINTER FASHION TRENDS

BY HANNAH STILL



Last issue *The Conglomerate* offered a list of winter trends. However, upon finishing the list, I couldn’t help but think of the men. Despite its feminine connotation, fashion is for everyone. After all, men wear clothes too. Here are some that are sure to embellish your personal style this season.

Grey on Grey: No, this isn’t some homoerotic E.L. James spinoff. Wearing grey with grey has taken over men’s fashion, appearing in numerous runway shows during Fashion Week. Although this has been done mostly with suits and tuxedos, this look can be made to work with casual clothing by mixing darker and lighter shades of grey. Consider layering a darker cardigan and tie with a lighter grey collared shirt underneath. Streamlined and sophisticated, this look will be impressive with little effort. And you don’t even need fifty shades.

Big, Statement Scarves: Fashionable and functional! Protecting your neck from the cold can some-

times be tedious, especially because turtlenecks aren’t for everyone. Scarves are easy, and you can take them off if they get annoying. The best scarves for this winter are colorful and make a statement. Grab one to wear with a black tee and khakis with a cardigan and you’re good to go. They come in a variety of sizes but the largest ones have made their way to the runways of fashion week. It’s an easy way to stay warm while still looking current.

Oxblood and Maroon: These two colors rocked the feminine fashion world last year. This year, it’s the guys’ turn. Seen from Alexander McQueen’s to Prada’s shows last fashion week, they proved to be statement colors that are here to stay. This is good news for us Ladies and Gents because the red goes perfectly with our school spirit. Throw on some deep socks for a pop of color one day or sport a maroon cardigan on a Friday. You’ll look sharp as a tack, all while supporting your school. The color compliments a variety of hair and skin colors, and is ultra-androgynous, so it won’t be too feminine on men or too masculine on women. Not if you don’t want it to be.

Leather: A classic. It appeared all over the place during fashion week and will probably stay here well into the next few years. Because of the authenticity of this trend, it looks great on literally everyone. Sport some on your shoes, a classic leather jacket, or even in a cuff bracelet. Or just go with a belt. Either way, this trend will keep you looking trendy, current, and probably warm. The best way to go is with a leather jacket, because it’s easy and there’s such a variety of styles to choose from. From greaser to bomber style, this lasting trend will keep you warm. And if you’re an animal lover, don’t fret; faux leather options are available!

These trends are by no means a rule book; just ideas on how to express your personal style. Wear these and you’ll be sure to be warm as well as fashionable this winter at Centenary.

STAYING IN TUNE

BY OLIVIA JOHNSON

Many may be aware that each year, Centenary hosts the Wideman Piano Competition, but few may have any clue about its long and fruitful history.

Since 1950, the competition has been held at the Hurley School of Music on the first weekend of December. Despite its not at all central location, the competition has always drawn entries from all over the world. The 2012 first place winner was a student of the University of Miami and a native of Russia. The competition also draws famed pianists and conductors to our school to participate as judges. (The current executive director is currently Dr. Lester Senter Wilson, a highly successful opera singer and the first double major – voice and piano – of the University of Texas in Austin)

The contest was started by Nena Wideman, a former professor of Centenary’s piano program. She ran the competition and ensured its continuance until her death in 1983. After her departure, however, the Shreveport Symphony kindly created an endowment that ensured the competition’s annual occurrence. Thirty years later, Hurley is still ringing with the sound of winning concertos.

For any piano prodigies who may be interested, the competition is open to anyone between the ages of 18 and 28 who is not a first place winner from the year before or a student of any judge for that year. The first place winner receives \$5,000; the second \$2,500; the third \$1,500; and the five honorable mention players each receive \$200. Not only does winning the Wideman competition provide a generous prize, but also immense esteem.

This year’s contest will begin with preliminary rounds on December 6th and 7th with the final round on the 8th. If continuing art and culture in this area is something you care about and would like to keep the Wideman Competition going, visit their website to make a donation.

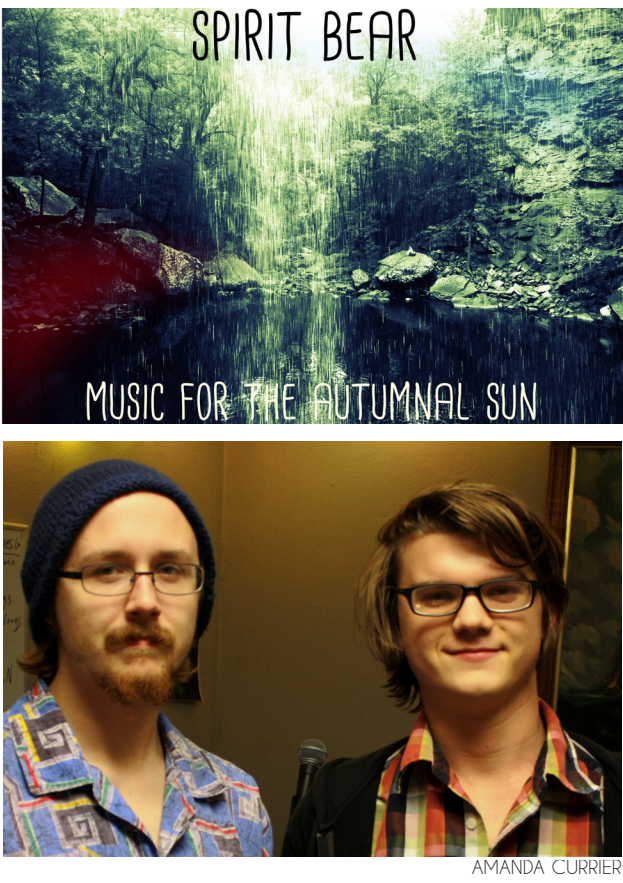
ARTIST SPOTLIGHT: REILY COOK AND DANIEL AINSWORTH

BY KATY PITTS

Reily Cook and Daniel Ainsworth make up the two parts of the ambient outfit Spirit Bear. The sophomores and Shreveport natives have just released their new album *Music for the Autumnal Sun*. The album is a mixture of ambient and electronic music, and at six tracks, it is a short but sweet trip into their musical world.

The collaboration between Cook and Ainsworth began back in high school. “It was almost just out of convenience,” Ainsworth said. “We both played guitar and so we figured we ought to do something with that.” So they ended up playing in high school rock bands together, and when college started, they began a new rock band.

So why did they want to release an ambient album separate from that? “I think we really just wanted to have something physical,” Cook said. “Throughout the past couple of years, we’d never actually released anything, and ambient music seemed the easiest to record.” And while Ainsworth agrees, that didn’t stop them from trying to pack as many instruments as they could into the music.



When asked who played what instruments on the tracks, the guys started on a seemingly endless list: drums, percussion, accordion, piano and keyboards, acoustic and electric guitars, flute, Theremin and the list kept going. They couldn’t even seem to remember who played what. “There were a lot,” Ainsworth said laughing.

Though the album has a cohesive sound, the guys cite a wide array of musical influences on the album—everything from Brian Eno and Stars of the Lid (classic ambient producers) to The Chariot and Explosions in the Sky. Ainsworth keenly observed, “I think we’re also influenced by whatever each other is listening to because we’ve been playing music together for so long. So I’m influenced by whatever he plays in the band, and that’s a derivative of what he’s influenced by.”

The guys say they aren’t currently playing the music at any shows. They still haven’t decided whether the music would translate well to a live setting. But, if you’d like to support the band, they suggest visiting spirit-bear.bandcamp.com and checking out their new album *Music for the Autumnal Sun*.

ARTFLOP

BY OLIVIA JOHNSON



I came into Lady Gaga’s ARTPOP with an open mind. Neither a lover nor a hater, I had somewhat neutral expectations for the Fame Monster’s latest exploit. What I left with was fairly neutral as well. It wasn’t terrible, but it wasn’t the brilliance that her Little Monsters have been claiming.

It’s no secret that one of Gaga’s favorite themes is personal relationships – particularly sex. ARTPOP doesn’t stray from her norm. In the past, however, she was in-your-face in a subtle way. We all know what “Poker Face” is about, but it’s pretty far from, “Take me to your Venus,” a line repeated in ARTPOP’s “Venus”. Half of the album is about sex, but it isn’t sexy.

So what’s her angle? Gaga is very open about sexuality, often dressing provocatively to show us that sex, for her, is animal, natural, and far from her heart. It isn’t about intimacy, it’s about control. In “Do What U Want,” Gaga croons, “I fall apart if you break my heart, so just take my body.” In that relationship, Gaga refuses to put her heart on the line; she’s totally in control of what happens to her.

Furthermore, Gaga’s whole career thus far has been about streamlining the “pop star” and turning the act of being a pop star itself into an art form. That’s what her

“artpop” is. (Even though she tells us that her “artpop could mean anything”.) So, when Gaga steers away from sex and toward drugs, it becomes clear that not even performing, but simply being in the spotlight is her drug. The later track “Dope” describes her problems with maintaining relationships because she loves her artpop more – her “dope”. (Although some say this refers to actual drug addiction, I prefer to believe Gaga’s a little deeper than that.) This leads me to believe that some of her lyrics about sex could even be about not necessarily the actual act of sex, but fame. However, I’m just not buying it.

Most will say “Dope” is the standout track because it’s stripped-down – just Gaga and a piano. But her lyrics are so simple and boring that her Springsteen-like belting just doesn’t do it for me. Because I don’t believe her words, I don’t believe the emotion in her voice. “Gypsy” and “Fashion!” are reminiscent of old Gaga in that they’re just fun. “Gypsy” even has some of the more metaphor-driven writing that makes Gaga’s older, dirtier songs actually fun to listen to (although “Gypsy”, surprisingly is not about sex).

The reason why the rest of the poppy songs struck no chords with me is that they are so hidden behind drop-the-bass techno beats, overdone and fragmented. Of course, tons of people love to listen to that style, and that’s fine. But when the gaga for Gaga Little Monsters defend Lady Gaga, calling her brilliant, they promise that she’s truly a talented musician – and an artist. Lady Gaga clearly has an artistic hand in crafting her persona and obviously a beautiful, powerhouse voice. This is why it irks me so when she turns out petty trap rap about drugs and EDM-laden pop songs. We get it, Gaga, you’re a pop phenomenon; let us hear you sing for more than a few tracks per album.

While I did enjoy a few parts to some tracks like the chorus to “G.U.Y.” and almost all of “Fashion!”, I’m left wanting more. I simply am not buying into Lady Gaga’s pop star image anymore. I don’t want to know Gaga; I want to know Stefani.

HOLIDAY MOVIE GUIDE

BY HANNAH STILL

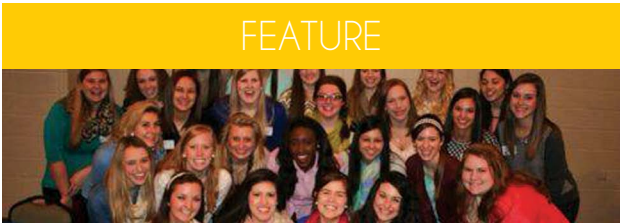
Upon going home this winter break, you may be asking yourself what to do with all the free time you’ll have between semesters. What better way to keep warm and spend quality family time than to veg out on awesome holiday films?

Below is the ultimate list of Holiday Movies. Curl up with some hot cocoa, and embrace your inner child with these Christmas classics

Elf. Starring Will Ferrell in one of his tamer roles, Elf is a hilarious Christmas classic that reminds us not to take everything so seriously. Buddy the Elf, a grown man who mistakenly ends up in Santa’s workshop, is not your usual elf. After discovering his birth father is on Santa’s Naughty List, Buddy travels from the North Pole all the way to the Big Apple to meet his real father and get him on the Nice List. As you can imagine, funniness ensues, and Buddy experiences a whole new Christmas experience. This family friendly film is sure to bring laughter to everyone, young and old.

The Hobbit: the Desolation of Smaug. Although not actually out yet, you won’t be able to view this one from the couch in your living room. Coming to theatres December 13th, it serves as a great excuse for a family outing this holiday season. During your downtime this season, take a trip to middle earth will Bilbo Baggins again in this second installment of the Hobbit series. This imaginative epic follows his journey through middle earth to destroy the dragon Smaug. Although not a holiday movie, there are sure to be some perilous as well as heartwarming moments to bring you closer to your family and friends.

These movies are sure to bring you joy this holiday season. Get your parents in the living room or even your closest friends and have an awesome Christmas movie marathon. It will be sure to bring you all closer together this year.



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THE CONGLOMERATE

MARCH 2014

NOVELIST STEVE WEDDLE VISITS CAMPUS

BY ELLEN ORR

Alumnus Steve Weddle ('92) visited campus February 23rd through February 25th to discuss his recently published novel, *Country Hardball*, which depicts a rural community in our part of the world. During Weddle's visit, he spoke with classes and a local book club, and he gave a reading in a packed Whited Room.

Country Hardball is a "novel-in-stories." Because, in part, of this format, the prose is efficient—that is, each word, line, and story does a lot of work. The efficiency is like that of a poem, or even perhaps a news story: each word exudes intent, and the piece overall is relatively short. And it's no wonder: Weddle holds an MFA from Louisiana State University and has worked in journalism, on and off, since the '90s.

It's clear that Weddle arrived at Centenary eager to write. Dr. Havird recalled that Weddle as a freshman wanted to enroll in his poetry-writing class but didn't have the prerequisites, but he requested a seat nonetheless and did take the class that year.

"My thinking was, 'I'm not at Centenary to take a geology class,'" Weddle said. "Geology class was fine, but I wanted to get into the reading and the writing and the poetry and the things I wanted to do much more quickly than the curriculum allowed me to do."

His enthusiasm for the written word didn't wane: during all four years of his undergraduate career, Weddle worked for *The Conglomerate* and *Pegasus* (now *Pandora*), as well as *KSCL*. He described the Centenary student media he knew as "a very, very vibrant thing," recalling media-hosted poetry readings, late night lit discussions on the roof of the SUB, and impromptu writing workshops at the CUB.

Weddle still keeps in touch with the Centenary media community they built.



BY ASHLEY HAVIRD

"It was a great time," he said. "It was like reading a certain book at the right time, where it really hits you . . . Being that age at Centenary with those people who were very, very active in (the media) scene."

After graduation, Weddle obtained a graduate degree and an MFA. He went on to work on or with newspapers. He currently lives in Virginia, works an eight-to-five for a newspaper group, and is a full-time family man, as a husband of 20+ years and a dad of two young children.

And, amid all of this, he wrote and published an acclaimed novel, a novel that *The New York Times* described as "downright dazzling." When does he find the

time to write?

In the early mornings: Weddle writes from 4:00am to 5:30am every morning without fail.

"If you didn't write today, you're not a writer," he said. "Writers write. Bike riders ride bikes. Writers write. It's pretty straightforward."

Throughout his visit, Weddle kept coming back to one concept: "Don't you're your schoolwork get in the way of your education." He encouraged writing students to get involved in student media, attend enriching events on campus, and, most significantly, taking advantage of the enthusiasm and availability of the faculty.

"They want you to reach your potential, not in some sort of lame, pamphlet, recruiting kind of way, but honestly, I think they actually (wanted and still want) you to succeed," he said. "(My professors') enthusiasm for the students was phenomenal and had a huge impact on my ability to hit whatever kind of success I've had with the novel."

Weddle is a dynamic character, and you should expect no less of those in *Country Hardball*. The cast of characters is huge, and you may need a spreadsheet to keep them all straight, but you will relish every opportunity to learn more about each one. What makes the characters (and perhaps the

book) is the dialogue. Weddle masters each distinct voice, from a drunk high school girl to a hardened criminal. And, whereas many novels set in the South seem overly stereotypical, Weddle's depiction of our neck of the woods holds true.

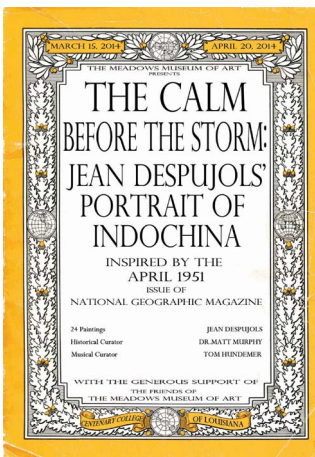
Spoiler Alert: *Country Hardball* is an absolute delight to read. Weddle himself described it as "somewhere between (detective fiction and literary fiction)," which makes it appealing to many different people. The accuracy and vitality of the characters is inspiring, and the craftfulness of every single page is truly awesome.

THE CALM BEFORE THE STORM: JEAN DESPUJOLS' PORTRAITS OF INDOCHINA

BY ELLEN ORR

An exhibit featuring 24 of Jean Despujols's paintings will open March 15th at the Meadows Museum of Art. The 24 paintings, which the Meadows own, are those that were featured in a 1951 *National Geographic* article titled "Portrait of Indochina."

"In the exhibit, we'll try to illustrate the discordance of his tranquil 1930s images with the article's discussion of Ho Chi Minh's growing war against the French, and explain the disasters on the horizon (Vietnam War, Cambodian genocide, etc.) through the work of guest



historical curator Dr. Matt Murphy," wrote interim co-director Dr. Lisa Nicoletti.

Tom Hundemar will be the guest musical curator for the show, and librarian Kristi Kohl will provide educational materials.

The exhibit's opening reception will be Saturday, March 15th, from 5:30 to 7:30. Food and drink will be provided, as well as music from Shreveport Symphony members. All are welcome.

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL TIPS

BY ELLEN ORR

Traveling internationally for May Module? Your experienced professors will surely provide plenty of good advice, and your packing list will cover the basics. But here are a few tricks and tips you may not get from them.

The Baggage

Leave the fancy, bulky, and emotional baggage at home. Get your hands on a regulation-sized carry-on rolling bag.

Also bring a backpack and a small cross-body bag. (Technically you’re only supposed to bring one additional carry-on, but I’ve never been stopped with my backpack and cross-body purse. However, ensure that your purse can fit in your backpack if worse comes to worst.)

Write your name, contact info, and address on the INSIDES of your bags (in case your cute luggage tags fall off).

Packing

In addition to the stuff your professors recommend you pack, you should also consider including:

In your luggage:

- Hiking underwear, because they’re easily hand-washable and dry quickly
- (Speaking of underwear: put all of your delicates in a clear bag—maybe a gallon Ziplock or a small mesh bag—so that if you get picked for a random luggage search, you don’t have TSA agents picking through



Chacos

\$100

- your panties.)
- A belt, if your jeans stretch too much after a few days of wear
 - Good sneakers, because you will want them even if you think you won’t
 - A surge protector/power strip, for charging multiple devices with one adapter and protecting your small electronics



In your backpack:

- A Nalgene
- (For women) a cardigan and/or scarf, in case you find yourself in a place that requires more modesty
- Region-specific electrical outlet adapter, in case you need to charge in an airport or public place
- Blister bandaids
- Your makeup bag or dopp kit
- Travel-sized dry shampoo and deodorant, for long days of travel and/or extended periods of time without access to a shower (Note TSA regulations.)
- Extra contacts and solution, if applicable
- Socks (the fuzzier the better)
- Photocopies of your passport and all credit/debit cards

In your cross-body:

- Hand sanitizer, for use in after using public transportation, public bathrooms, etc. (Buy this after airport security.)
- A small external battery, for on-the-go device charging
- A retractable ink pen, for customs forms, etc.
- chapstick, for high altitudes (includ-



Dry Shampoo

\$3

- ing on the plane) and dry/hot climates
- Extra hair bands, if applicable

On the Day of Departure

Wear clothes that are comfortable but also don’t make you look or feel like a bum. My go-to travel clothes: black leggings, loose-but-not-baggy top, oversized sweater or cardigan (which can later double as a blanket or pillow), and sandals (something like Birkenstocks or Chacos).

Take off any expensive or otherwise valuable jewelry. Put on a durable, waterproof watch.

Utilize the iPhone Passbook (pre-installed) app so that your boarding passes, etc. are all organized and in one place.



Nalgene

\$10



External Battery

\$80

like me and won’t remember much—if anything—said on the audio guide, vouch instead to focus on the larger experience. Sleep is important, but you’re more likely to remember a sunrise jog in a new land than you are to remember snoozing through your alarm. If making memories with your friends is important, do that. If you’re more of a solo traveler, don’t feel bad indulging that part of yourself. Eat if you like to eat. Really study the native language if that’s your thing. Unabashedly pull out your sketchbook, your SLR, your Moleskine, your running shoes; cater your trip to your own interests, as much as the itinerary allows.



Once In-Country

If you have an iPhone, utilize the “drop pin” function in Maps. Drop pins at your hotel, any group meeting places, etc. That way, if you get yourself lost and don’t have an address, you can navigate to the pin you dropped.

Don’t be afraid to throw away or alter things you packed. Toss those socks that you’ve worn all week long. Take a pair of scissors to your jean pants and turn them into shorts. Put souvenir stickers on your Nalgene. Have fun; stuff is just stuff.

Be wary of buying stuff that takes up room in your suitcase. If you take plenty of photos and journal about your trip, you won’t need a shot glass or a refrigerator magnet to remember your adventure.

Consider what’s important. If you love museums, hit them all. But if you’re

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: CHRIS BROWN '01 AND THE CENTENARY ARCHIVES

BY CHRIS BROWN

What’s the life of an issue of the *Conglomerate*? How about a week, or a semester, or until the next issue is published? My department – Centenary’s Archives and Special Collections – is responsible for preserving each issue forever. The paper represents a valuable resource that documents the college’s history from the perspective of its students.

In addition to collecting and preserving the newspaper, the archives helps researchers access past issues of the *Conglomerate*. This has traditionally involved visiting our facility, requesting a particular volume, and skimming through issues until the researcher found the information they were seeking. This research process radically began to transform in 2012. Now, researchers have online access to issues published between 1959 and 1990. These are available at our website www.centenary.edu/library/archives.

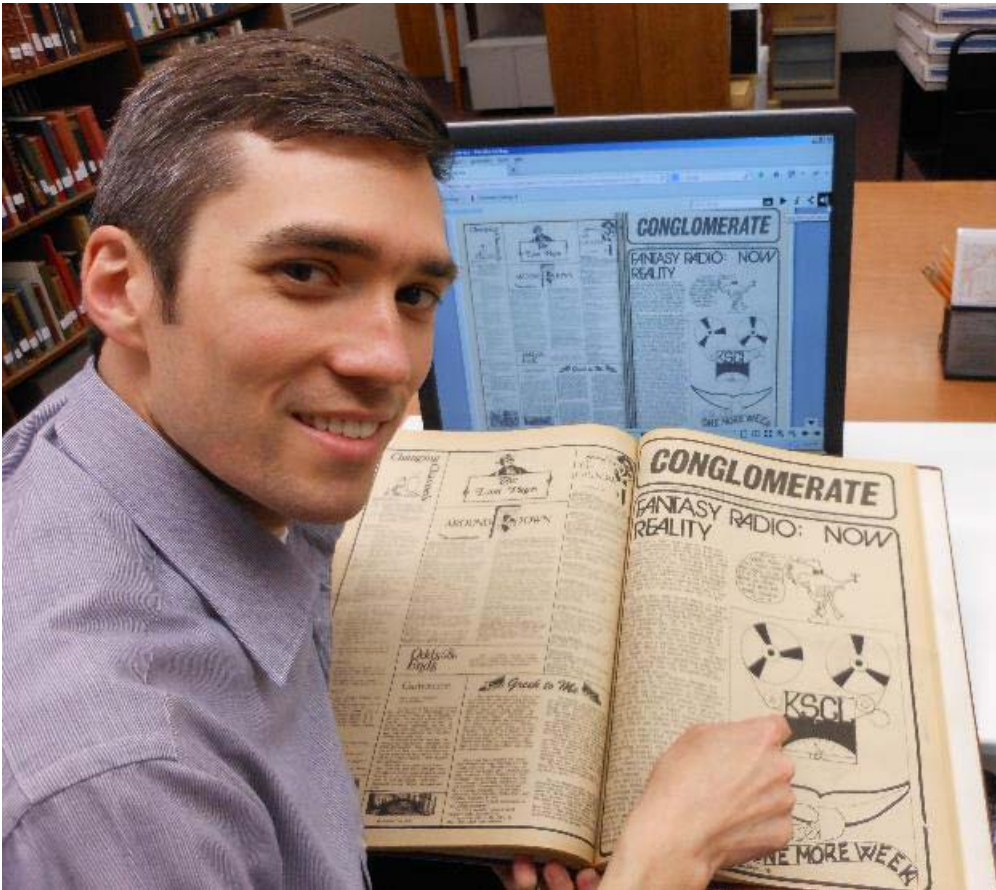
Making thirty-one years of the *Conglomerate* available online has provided numerous benefits for our researchers. Anyone with internet access can view these issues 24/7. Furthermore, they can conduct keyword searches to locate specific articles within each volume. Researchers can also print and download these digital volumes of the student newspaper.

Feedback from our researchers has reinforced the significance of this project. Chase Rials, a History major at Centenary, said, “I used the online catalog of the *Conglomerate* for my senior seminar project. It provides a unique view of the students and gets down to a personal level in the history of our institution. The catalog was

easy to use and clear in its online format.”

Another perspective comes from alumnus Taylor Caffery ’75, who worked as a *Conglomerate* editor, staff writer, and business manager: “Sometimes I’ll see an article in the Shreveport paper or the Centenary alumni news that will shake loose a creaky old memory. It can be useful to turn to the relevant *Conglomerate* issues in the web archives to fill in some of the gaps. Also notable is the overall span of student and local community styles, attitudes and manners of expression through the decades. The archives provide a telling and a bit embarrassing perspective on our various socio/political/cultural controversies that turned out to be pretty darned par for the course, though, who knew?”

What’s next for the Centenary Archives and our *Conglomerate* collection (1921 to 2014)? Secure additional grant funding to get them all online! In closing, the archives would like to thank the Centenary Muses and the Women’s Endowment Quorum for the financial



BY AMANDA CURRIER

support that allowed us to digitize and upload all issues of the *Conglomerate* published between 1959 and 1990. Chris Brown’s illustrious associations with Centenary College include: basketball ball boy (elementary school, circa 1988), KSCL music reviewer (high school, circa 1995), college student (1997-2001), KSCL disc jockey (1997-present), and research assistant to the college’s historian (2002-2007). Since 2009, he has managed the Centenary College Archives.

ZETAS RACK UP AWARDS AT ZTA DAY

BY AMANDA CURRIER

The Beta Iota Chapter of Zeta Tau Alpha received several awards during their Louisiana Zeta Day on Saturday, February 8, 2014. The Chapter itself won the Most Spirited Award for their presence during Zeta Day, and brought home the Donna Rylee Outstanding Chapter Award based on merit, overall grade point average, service achievements, and overall character. Those members celebrating individual awards are Chapter President, Brooke Bahlinger, and Holly Clark.

Zeta Day is a state day full of festivities where all chapters from the state gather to meet each other. Louisiana State University (LSU) and the University of New Orleans were among those present in Nachitoches.

“LSU had around 300 members where we only had 60, and we were able to bring home the Most Spirited award for the day based on how loud and rambunctious we were. This was an honor to beat out all those girls for the award, [when they clearly outnumbered us].” said Brooke Bahlinger, President. Centenary’s girls represented well.

The Donna Rylee Outstanding Chapter Award is given based on the ability of the chapter’s involvement in new events such as the Pancake Breakfast and the Big Man on Campus recently. The sorority’s involvement in philanthropy, their merit as a whole, and the abilities the chapter exhibits throughout the year brought home

the big award for the Zeta’s this year.

The Donna Rylee Award was awarded to the Zetas this year for 100% initiation (This means every new member was inducted that became a ZTA that semester, high academic achievements including high GPAs, and the establishment of new philanthropy events such as Pancake Dinner in the spring and the Big Man On Campus event in the fall. “The Donna Rylee Award has not been awarded to our chapter in 10 years so this was an enormous honor,” said Bahlinger.

“These are prestigious awards and are viewed as a huge success for the chapter as a whole,” said Mary Kate Robertson who serves as the Historian for Zeta Tau Alpha.

Bahlinger won the Zeta Lady of Louisiana award this year, which is seen as the highest award any Zeta can receive in the state of Louisiana. She is a junior who pledged her freshman year at Centenary College, where she studies History and Political Science as a double major.

“Becoming a Zeta has changed my world. The best way to describe the Greek life I once heard said was,” “From the outside looking in, you can never understand it. From the inside looking out, you can never explain it.” – Author Unknown. Zeta has inspired me in many ways, and I will remember my experience as a Zeta

for the rest of my life and its impact will never leave me.” Bahlinger said.

“Holly Clark received the Zeta Goddess Award because of her constant enthusiasm and support and love for Zetas,” said Mary Kate Robertson.

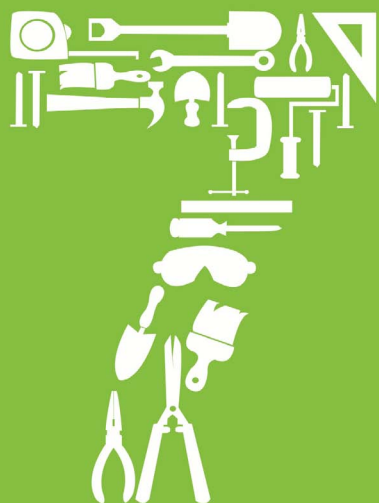
Clark is a senior Biology major graduating Magna Cum Laude this May. She has just been accepted into LSU School of Dentistry for the Fall of 2014. Clark pledged Zeta Tau Alpha the fall semester of her freshman year, and is rounding out her fourth year in the sorority.

“It means a lot that the chapter voted me ZTA goddess. I’ve always looked up to the girls that have received it in previous years, and it’s very humbling to receive it this year,” said Clark. “Finding a place where you fit in on a college campus is difficult, and without the friendship and support of my sisters in ZTA, I can honestly say that I wouldn’t be the person I am today. The unique part about being in a sorority at Centenary is that you become friends with every single member, not just your pledge class or “big sister”. I’ve truly enjoyed every experience I’ve had being a part of this sorority, and I know that the friendships I have made will last forever.”

IT'S BIG AND IT'S COMING

BY MATTIE MILNER

THE BIG EVENT March 29, 2014



HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT IT YET?

The BIG Event is a student-led, large scale, day of service which unites Centenary with its surrounding neighbors to build relationships, express gratitude, and enhance the community that has supported the college for over one-hundred years. At the BIG Event, students, faculty, staff, and alumni come together to act as neighbors helping neighbors. Together, we work to beautify

the surrounding neighborhoods of Centenary College, to show our gratitude for their support of our community, and to allow us to give back and connect with the Shreveport community. Volunteers have the opportunity to choose from various helpful activities, including exterior home improvement, basic landscaping, and inside services. After volunteers have finished helping in the neighborhoods, BIG Event then has a carnival which provides everyone with fresh food grilled by DPS, free

drinks, and fun games. Garret Whipple, director of our 2014 BIG Event, describes the event's purpose in this way:

"The BIG Event is one of the unique aspects of Centenary that make it such a prominent figure in the Shreveport community. Being able to work with a group of devoted students to develop a campus wide day of



BY LATOYA HEMPHILL

service is a direct reflection of the goals of the BIG Event and the college. The BIG Event is a centenary tradition that is influential in the community and integral to the Centenary experience."

So mark up your calendars, and get ready to help out this year on March 29th, 2014 for the best BIG Event yet!

COLOR ME CHI-O

BY KAITLYN FRANTZ

The Iota Gamma Chapter of Chi Omega is hosting their second annual 5K color run, Color Me Chi-O, to benefit the Make-A-Wish Foundation. In the past, Iota Gamma has held other successful fundraisers to help grant the wishes of children from the area. We are asking for your help to sponsor our event in order to continue this tradition of helping kid's wishes come true.

The Make-A-Wish Foundation is an organization that grants wishes to children with life threatening

conditions. For the past 13 years, Chi Omega has had the pleasure of granting wishes to children. In order to grant another wish this year, we need your help by participating in this year's Color Me Chi-O race, on Saturday, March 15th at 8 AM! Anyone and everyone is invited to run (or walk if you so choose) and spend one morning in a fun and exciting atmosphere. Your participation is helping one young girl from the Shreveport-Bossier area fulfill her wish to be a Disney princess for one day in Disney World.

Kaitlyn Frantz, the Community Service Chair for

Iota Gamma, is becoming more and more excited as the race approaches because of the tremendous cause it supports as well as seeing all of the inspirational runners she hopes to convince that the race is not only a great way to work-out but also an event filled with fun!

As the motto for the Color Me Chi-O is "Running for Wishes, we hope that this community will play a part in granting a wish to someone from the community.

For more information and to sign up to run visit the following website www.sportspectrumusa.com/events/color-me-chio-5k. We hope to see you there!



BY RON VISKOZI

MAN ON THE STREET: WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO DO AT CENTENARY BEFORE GRADUATING?



“Getting a 100 on a Dr. Otto test”
- Alissa Brown and Abigail Dillard



“Getting on all of the building’s rooftops”- Zoe McSwain (jk DPS)



“Finding the secret room in Mickle”- Cadie Hancock
“Climbing to the bell tower” - Walker Gamble



“Winning basketball conference”
- Haley Deshautelle, Linda Gomez-Gill, and Lizzie Moran

THE TIME WILL PASS ANYWAY- STAYING MOTIVATED

BY CHRISTINE LANGSTON

Picture this, you are sitting on the beach, watching the waves and enjoying the warm sunshine on your skin, listening to the crashing of the water and the laughter of the hundreds of people around you. This is you in roughly 3 months, so how do you stay motivated to do well during those precious few months before summer rolls around again? As someone who is about to graduate, I find myself wondering this very thing. It is easy to just tell myself “C’s get degrees” but I know if I truly adopted this philosophy I would not be fully satisfied with how I finished my undergraduate degree. Thus, I must find a way to stay motivated to do well in this last semester. There are many ways to do this, but the most effective way I have found is to make a list and a schedule. If you have a schedule it is much easier to not procrastinate and blow off assignments, study time, or reading time. I put all of my assignments in my planner when I received my syllabi for each class the first week, and so I know when assignments are due, so each week I make a plan of what I am going to work on each day of the week in order to get what needs to be done, done. Being organized and setting a schedule each week, because every week is different, makes it easier to stay on top of your school work and not get overwhelmed, which makes it 10x harder to stay motivated. Another way that I have found useful is to surround yourself with like-minded, and motivated people. It has been said that you become like those you spend time with, and this is even more true when it comes to schoolwork. If you surround yourself with people who procrastinate and talk instead of study (if you are trying to study in a group), then you will ultimately get nothing accomplished and will be overwhelmed for half the semester. The flip side of that is if you surround yourself with people who are willing to put in the work first and have fun second then you will also put your work first. It is difficult to stay motivated with images of beach umbrellas and chairs dancing in your heads, however, keep in mind that you have to put in the work now, and the reward will come. One of my favorite quotes, and a good one to remember this semester goes like this: “Never give up on a dream just because of the time it will take to accomplish it. The time will pass anyway.” –Earl Nightingale. So remember why you are here and what you want to accomplish in your time here, whether you are a freshman or a senior, do what you can with the time you have, because you can’t get it back, and it goes all too quickly.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

It’s been a crazy year for our staff. Two editors transferred schools (#retention), one brilliant writer quit due to over-involvement (#centenaryproblems), and many of us have been struggling with personal loss, illness, injury, and the like.

It would be easy for us to play the victim card. We were unfortunately unable to publish a paper last month; it would be easy for me to blame that on a dwindling and struggling staff; it would be easy for the staff to resent me for asking them to do work during all of our

personal and group turmoil.

But, lucky for me (and y’all), our staff is made up of workers. They don’t consider themselves victims of their circumstances; they take control of their lives and destinies. We didn’t put out a paper in February, but instead of moping or quitting, this staff made the conscious decision to work hard and produce a great February-March joint issue.

There are two types of people: those who see their disabilities as obstacles, and those who see their disabilities as tools and opportunities to create, learn, and solve. So many people perpetually blame hardship for

their lives’ problems. Fewer use their problems to effect change; actually, few work to effect change, period.

I am proud to have served as editor-in-chief of this paper for the 2013–2014 school year. I feel fortunate to have worked with a group of gritty, talented, empowered people, who haven’t created excuses but have instead created solutions—not to mention some beautiful newspapers. I hope more people on campus will follow suit.

Thanks for reading our final issue of *The Conglomerate*.

Ellen Orr

Editor-in-Chief

CREATIONALISM II

Note from Dr. Ciocchetti:

How should public schools teach science and religion? People need an education, but the contents of their education may challenge or even contradict some students’ religious beliefs. Should all students be required to learn scientific findings even when they conflict with their religious beliefs? What should public schools teach, and what shouldn’t they teach, in a pluralistic society? How should they address controversies?

Zack Kopplin (sophomore at Rice University and founder of Repeal Creationism) spoke on January 29th in the Whited Room. Students responded.

CLASSROOM CREATIONALISM DEBATE IS NOTHING NEW

BY DOMINIC SALINAS

“The more things change, the more they remain the same” is usually attributed to Jean-Baptiste Alphonse Karr (1908 – 1990). The interpretation of this quote no doubt varies from person to person, and it takes on a unique meaning for me whenever the topic of teaching creationism comes up in one of my classes at Centenary College. The following is a brief historical review of creationism in Louisiana from my teaching experiences to the activism of Zack Kopplin.

I was in my fourth year as a biology teacher in Bossier Parish Schools in 1981 when Louisiana Governor Treen signed the “Balanced Treatment for Creation-Science and Evolution-Science Act.” The act did not require teaching either creationism or evolution, but it did require that “creation science” must be taught if “evolutionary science” was taught. As a classroom teacher I attended the mandatory in-services, acknowledged the act was now state law and was issued a Teacher’s Guide outlining the tenets of creation science.

A few years earlier, Arkansas had passed a similar act which was later struck down in McLean v. Arkansas by an Arkansas District Court in 1982. Arkansas did not appeal the decision to an Appeals Court. When the Louisiana act was legally challenged, supporters decided they had a much stronger argument than Arkansas in the case of Edwards v. Aguillard. After the District Court and the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled against Louisiana, the decision was appealed. Edwards v. Aguillard (1987) was heard by the Supreme Court of the United States and was ruled unconstitutional because it was “specifically intended to advance a particular religion.” However, the Supreme Court did include that “teaching a variety of scientific theories about the origins of humankind to school children might be validly done with the clear secular intent of enhancing the effectiveness of science instruction.”

In the 1990’s, supporters of creationism began using the terms “Intelligent Design” and “Design Proponents” in place of “Creationism” and “Creationists.” A textbook, Of Pandas and People, was published as a supplemen-

tary science textbook. Parents in Pennsylvania filed suit concerning the use of this textbook resulting in Kitzmiller v. Dover Area School District in 2005. The 139-page opinion of Kitzmiller v. Dover established that “creationism and intelligent design were religious teachings and not areas of legitimate scientific research.” The Kitzmiller case was not appealed.

I was in my last few years before retirement from public schools in 2008 when Louisiana Governor Jindal signed the Louisiana Science Education Act (LSEA). The only other state to have a similar act was Tennessee. The LSEA “specifically states it shall not be construed to promote any religious doctrine.” Proponents defend the act as a way to allow public school teachers “academic freedom” and their students to have a “choice.” It has been ridiculed and denounced by Nobel Prize laureates, scientific associations and Zack Kopplin since it was enacted by the Louisiana legislature as an effort to introduce unscientific theories into science education. Or, in the words of Monsieur Karr, “The more things change, the more they remain the same.”

BELIEVER IN BOTH

BY AMANDA PRICE

As a product of the Louisiana public school system, I recognize an internal conflict between believers and science. Why are people of faith afraid of evolution? Do believers think that if they agree with it, they must deny their faith or are doing an injustice to the powerfulness of God? Many believers hold these concerns, but I suggest we can cope with the tension between evolution and matters of faith rationally. People of faith should not be scared of the word “evolution.” Evolution is a scientific theory.

If evolution is true, how does the Truth (with a capitol “T”) some believers are taught in church and at home fit with the truth taught in science classrooms? Zack Kopplin didn’t offer a resolution. As he sees it, science and religion occupy completely separate spheres. I disagree.

A good place to start is to define a theory as a scientifically acceptable general principle or body of principles

offered to explain phenomena whenever certain conditions exist. The validity of gravity is not questioned among Christians today. Similarly evolution should not be questioned either.

For me, the cosmological stories of religion and science do not contradict. I can interpret faith stories to match the theories set forth by science and hold the two in the same hand. The Christian Bible states that the world was created in six days. A “day” can be interpreted as any length of time and rationalized with the formation of the current world. I can read from the Bible that plants were created first which evolved into sea creatures, birds of the air, and eventually mammals. This narrative matches the theory of evolution which occurred over millions of years. Instead of teaching others what we believe is the truth, what would schools look like if we focused on equipping minds with the tools to make that decision for themselves?

Both science and religion are essential to our culture. Scientific evolution is vital for understanding life, but religious narratives are just as essential to understanding human history and society. Therefore, evolution should be taught in public school science classrooms, and the creation narratives of the major world

religions should be taught in public schools as well. We should not teach nonscientific viewpoints in science classrooms, but we need to work hard to find other places for those schools of thought. Science and religion do not have to be mutually exclusive of one another. They can be complimentary and beneficial to one’s perspective of truth and faith. The acceptance of the truth of science does not put holes in faith, but rather strengthens the foundation on which beliefs are built.

Our nation was founded on the principles of freedom of choice and understanding. The First Amendment to our constitution is not designed to segregate church and state, but to be certain no government becomes a religion and no religion becomes a government; this would include any of the world’s known religions or even science as a form of religion. I appreciate the last few sentences of Kopplin’s article published last Sunday. “We all have a moral responsibility to stand up and make sure our children get a good education and our country continues to benefit from science, [religion, philosophy], technology, [etc.]. We should be proud to be from Louisiana, not just because of our unique culture, but because we’re leading the country back to the right track.”

N THE CLASSROOM

EVOLUTION MISCONCEPTIONS HARM CHILDREN, SOCIETY

BY MATT CRAVENS

The inclusion of creationism in the science curriculum of public education systems is at the fundamental level the incorporation of nonscience. Science is, by definition, the utilization of testable explanations to describe the phenomena of the natural world. Religion, which is neither testable nor descriptive of natural phenomenon, is therefore not scientific. The First Amendment to the United States Constitution prohibits the passage of any law or policy that respects the establishment of religion, yet creationists claim that schools are violating the free exercise clause of that same amendment by excluding religious thought. Teaching creationism in public schools may or may not have a place, but if that place exists, it is not in the science classroom.

In the wake of this argument over First Amendment rights, there is another educational injustice that is taking place. Creationist thought is partially responsible for the propagation of a widespread rejection of one of the primary principles of biological sciences: the theory of evolution. Many creationists argue that evolution is antithetical to their beliefs concerning the origin of life and contend that the theory is merely a construct utilized to undermine their agenda. In truth, the general population possesses a great deal of misunderstanding concerning the subject of evolutionary descent, and I

contend that much of the rejection of evolution stems from this.

Although one must pursue extensive study to fully understand the innermost mechanisms of evolution, the basic principles are largely simple to grasp even for those with no expertise. One of the primary misconceptions concerns its status as a scientific theory. The vernacular tongue uses the word “theory” to refer to simple conjecture; this is in sharp contrast to the scientific vernacular, which uses “theory” to describe a tested, explainable, and most adequate description for natural phenomenon. Scientific theories not only include the theory of evolution, but also include the theory of gravity, and the germ theory of disease. This oversight has allowed those who reject evolution to disregard it as “just a theory,” a dismissal that scientists tend to roll their eyes at.

Furthermore, proponents of creationism tend to see evolution merely as an alternative origin of life. In truth, evolution has less to do with the origins of life and more to do with how life has changed over time. Evolution did not occur and cease, as many tend to think. All species of microbe, plant, or animal are constantly subjected to natural selection over time; we need look no further than the sudden prevalence of antibiotic-resistant bacteria like the infamous MRSA.

In short, regardless of your position concerning the inclusion of creationism in public school curriculums, we



PHOTO OF ZACK KOPPLIN

should not allow this disagreement to limit children by failing to explain fundamental scientific principles. Evolution is not necessarily antithetical to religious beliefs, as any proponent of theistic evolution will point out. By limiting education concerning evolution, we limit education on the entire subject of biology for our progeny. In order to circumvent this damaging limitation, we must work to clarify the common misconceptions regarding the theory of evolution and demonstrate its universality.

SCIENCE AND RELIGION MUST BE KEPT SEPARATE

BY HELAINE BRAUNIC

As the United States scrambles to maintain our lead relative to other countries in science and technology, we must take every measure possible to be sure that our science curricula address the field with depth and precision. We must not present our students with religious stances that we label “science.” We must teach facts, not opinions, and we must teach students how to differentiate between the two. When they leave high school for college campuses, they must be equipped with both method and content, so that they can join scientific communities that collaborate to use knowledge to solve problems. What students don’t need is to be confused by language that properly belongs in religious discussions.

Creationism, or intelligent design, does not fit the bill as “scientific knowledge.” While many individuals, including scientists, believe that God or a higher power set the wheels in motion for an ordered and awesome world, we cannot allow discussions of theology to intrude on the facts. The various presentations of “creation” found in the Hebrew Bible, like the creation

stories of other religions, are not meant to be a “physical history” of the world. They are, instead, an explanation of humanity’s moral and spiritual connection to a physical world that is governed by both scientific principles and moral order, a world inhabited by human beings who have the potential to be holy, to choose lives of blessing, and to be partners with God in the ongoing work of creation. “Creation” as presented in the Hebrew Bible is a blueprint for why we are here and what human life means, not an explanation of how or when we got here.

In every court challenge of which I am aware, the teaching of creationism or intelligent design has been struck down either in the original court case or in the appeal of the decision made by a lower court. Zack Kopplin’s efforts to repeal creationism are laudable. Even more laudable would be responsible legislators who address the very real educational needs of our country without trying to force religious beliefs into science curricula, which would violate the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment.

Churches, mosques, temples, and synagogues provide community and worship and education for their

members. In these places, we have an opportunity in the proper venue to explore the creation stories that give meaning to our lives. Whether we take the words of Scripture literally or metaphorically, creation stories show us how we, too, might become creators of justice and compassion and peace.

Education in the United States faces all kinds of challenges. We need excellent teachers. We need educated and committed parents. We need safe environments for children. We need children who can take responsibility for their personal behavior as well as responsibility for marginalized people. We need children who know our history and who value literature and the arts. And with regard to science, our children need facts. Save the religious explanations for the institutions that can guide our children’s moral development. Religion need not be the adversary of science. Scientific theory need not denigrate tradition. Our world is enriched by both religious thought and scientific thought, but they must be kept separate in the classroom.

SWIM TEAM SUCCESSES

BY CARLY SLOVENSKY

The student body of Centenary College is generally comprised of athletes. I'll admit the reason I decided to attend Centenary was to continue my soccer career. I've asked many students why they decided to choose Centenary as their choice of college and I received the same answer nearly every single time; to continue playing the sport they love. Let's be honest, without sports our world would seem dull, boring and nothing to be excited or thrilled about. What if there was no football, soccer, basketball, gymnastics, swimming, baseball or any other sport people spend multiple hours trying to get better at? What if there was no Super Bowl Sunday? Or the World Cup? Or Olympics? World Series? NBA Finals? As humans, we are look forward to these sporting events derived from the excitement of the games. Some of us are fortunate enough to continue playing sports after college, but for those of us who aren't, we like to take advantage of the time we have at Centenary College. Athletes dedicate numerous hours of practice to their sport in hopes of improving and coming together as a team.

The second semester usually tends to go by very quickly, with this being said, there are multiple sports at Centenary competing at this time. Our swim team recently finished their conference meets and many of the competitors placed well in their designated events. I thought it would be interesting to personally ask some



of our athletes about their experiences competing. Alex Taylor is a junior transfer from Misericordia University where she performed well, but felt it was time for a new experience and a new pool, literally. She was originally supposed to attend Centenary as a freshman, but decided to try out Misericordia first. When things began to take a turn south at Misericordia, Butch, the head swim coach at Centenary, reached out to her for a second time. She is now a junior and has nothing but positive vibes and experiences from being a part of the swim team. She explained how she enjoys the “family” experience

of being on the team. On her first day here, everyone welcomed her with open arms and she is forever thankful. She noticed the team possessed a high level of talent and couldn't wait to get the season started. The team over all did well and many of the swimmers achieved a new personal best time. Alex explained she has nothing but a positive outlook going into offseason and for next season. The swim team finished 5th overall in conference.

LADIES GYMNASTICS BEGINS SEASON

BY CARLY SLOVENSKY

The Centenary gymnastics team has been improving drastically this season while also having gymnasts achieving new personal best scores. They are about half way through the season and still have plenty of time to set new scores and records. I took the liberty of interviewing my suitemate, Megan Frazzinni, to gain a better insight on the gymnastics team. Megan is a freshman from Aurora, Colorado and was more than excited to compete for Centenary gymnastics. She first started gymnastics when she was nine years old and competed in her first meet when she twelve. Unfortunately, she tore her ACL at their very first inner squad at the begin-

ning of January in Gold Dome. She maintains a positive attitude for herself and especially for her teammates. Despite her injury, she still has high expectations for this upcoming season. She explained the team has set goals they wish to accomplish this season, not just on the floor but in the classroom as well. They wish to increase their team GPA, advance to Day 2 of Nationals and improve their start value on lineups. When she first met the gymnastics team, the impression she received was welcoming. She said she could see these girls as not only her teammates, but her sisters as well. Megan stated the team dynamic is outstanding and everyone gets

along with one another. With only four regular season meets, one of which is Friday February 21st at the Gold Dome (their only home meet this season), and the MIC Championship left before Nationals, she has nothing but the upmost confidence in her team and knows they will do well and will work to make their team score go up in order to make it to Nationals. When Megan sustained her injury she knew her teammates were like a family because they showed her support and love and tended to anything she needed. In her own personal words, “It's not just a team, it's a family.”

WOMEN'S GOLF SEASON SO FAR

BY CHRISTINE LANGSTON

The Centenary Ladies Golf team has been doing very well this season. Aside from their season opener in September, the Ladies have finished their tournaments close to the top. At the September 30th and October 1st tournament in Tyler, Texas, the Ladies swung their way to 3rd place, out of the 9 teams on both days. After that they have only had one other tournament in October. Their first tournament of this semester is February 17th Austin, Texas, and after that the Ladies will be back in Bossier City for the next 4 tournaments.

MEN'S BASKETBALL SUCCESS SO FAR

BY CHRISTINE LANGSTON



In one of our earlier editions we wrote about the high hopes for our men's basketball team this season, and it seems like those hopes are being realized. With

a 7 game winning streak, which was only just broken against Colorado College on Saturday February 15th, the Gents had a great showing of home games. They have 14 wins, and just 10 losses. This is much better than previous years at this point in the season.

The Gents began their season with many away games, however the most recent games have been at home. They have one more home game before going on the road again to finish their season. Being at home with their fans always helps tremendously, so we can look forward to more wins in the future for this season. To see a full schedule of all the games, and to see which games are conference games, go to www.goцентenary.com and click on men's basketball.

BASEBALL SEASON

BY CARLY SLOVENSKY

The Centenary baseball team possesses a winning record and last year earned the title of regular season Conference champions, although they finished 2nd at the Conference Tournament. They are going into this season with the loss of four key senior players from last year’s season, but the coaches did an excellent job of recruiting new players to fill those positions. One of my friends from back home was recruited to play baseball at Centenary, so I decided to ask him about his experience so far. Brooks Williams is a freshman from Houston, Texas. He fell in love with the game of baseball at a young age and was more than thrilled when he was given the opportunity to play at the collegiate level. He explained Coach Diaz was at one his baseball tournaments his senior year and contacted him after he saw him play. I remember being a freshman on the soccer field at Centenary and the feel of the adrenaline rush due to the expectations of my teammates to live up to. But at the same time, the feeling is exciting because you are out there with a team who enjoys playing the sport you love. So I asked Brooks how he felt after his first collegiate game as a freshman. He expressed to me being a freshman didn’t really phase him because he tries not to go out on the field with the “Rookie” mentality and just plays with his heart. Brooks was initially going to play for South Carolina, but then Coach Jolley reached out to him to come for a visit. When he came to visit Centenary, he said he instantly fell in love with the school and



how the baseball team wins at all levels. Brooks prepares mentally and physically during the week for each game before stepping out on the field. I asked if there were any expectations he had and he explained to me that the team takes it one pitch at a time and realizes it as a blessing to play with this group of guys during his college baseball experience. For his last statement, “I love the Gent Squad!”

Next, I asked a junior transfer from Maine, Adam Wilson, about his experience so far being a Gent. He came from a junior college and was ecstatic to play baseball at the D3 level. He explained to me how the coaching staff is incredible and the experience with them so far is undeniable. Adam states he has improved in all facets of the game and will continue to do so with the

coach’s guidance. Being a transfer and starting fresh at a new school can be intimidating, but when he met the team, they welcomed him and instantly made him feel like a part of the team. He expressed that the team is a great group of guys and everyone is getting better every day, not just on the field but as men, which will improve them as a team as the season moves forward. After playing these two weekend series, Adam feels confident in his teammates. As a team, he thinks they need to focus on dominating the competition and having a winning attitude. In his words, “We need to continue putting pressure on the defense and execute at the plate to continue our success as the season progresses.” Adam is excited to see where the season goes with this dedicated, talented group of guys.

THE CONGLOMERATE ... STAFF ...

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Ellen Orr

EDITORIAL STAFF
Reily Cook
Amanda Currier
Christine Langston
Adam Stephens

LAYOUT DESIGNER
Gina Vaca Loyola

PHOTOGRAPHER
Amanda Currier

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Hannah Still
Carly Slovensky
Amanda Price
Mattie Milner
Kaitlyn Frantz
Chris Brown
Matt Cravens
Dominic Salinas
Helaine Braunig

TENNIS TEAM STARTS OVER

BY CHRISTINE LANGSTON

This year, as mentioned in one of last semesters editions, our tennis team has experienced many set backs. These setbacks include, a change in coaching, the rebuilding of a team, and the struggle to find players in order to have a team at all. At the beginning of the year I sat down with the new tennis coach, who had high hopes for his team and was heavy into recruiting, with good reason, he pretty much had no team at all. The struggle to find players in order to have a team was a challenge at the beginning of the year; however, Coach Owens put in a lot of hard work and managed to get 10 guys for the men’s team, and 15 girls for the women’s team.

The Ladies have had two matches, in which they won the first one and lost the second one. The Gents have only had one match and went down 6 to 3. Both teams have only just begun their season and we look forward to keeping track of them and their successes. If Coach Owens was able to be successful in building a team with such high numbers, then we look forward to seeing how he can bring these student athletes success in this season.

REBEL SCUM AND SEAN STARWARS

BY REILEY COOK

Sean Starwars creates with an almost Warholian fervor. It's likely he's either making a woodcut, or brewing over an idea for one as you read this very sentence. But Warhol dissenters shouldn't let the fur on their back curl up yet; Starwars isn't preoccupied with the commercialistic aspects of mass-producing art. He reminds me more of a Buddhist monk, the one who compulsively draws circles until he eventually draws the "perfect circle" (no compass allowed). To do this is said to have reached enlightenment, a transcendental state. I think that's where Sean Starwars is headed. He creates prolifically, knowing that each piece has a chance to become a perfect circle. And even if it doesn't come out with all points being equidistant from some metaphorical center point, usually getting close is damn impressive.

Some of his subjects share pop art roots. Spiderman, Santa Claus, Mountain Dew—all of these things are a part of the modern-American mythos (and particularly important to the mythos of the white male). There is some kind of critique to make here. But really, it just kind of feels like Starwars, not some fancy commentary of modern America. It's a cohesive vision, one that says "I'm going to create what comes to *my mind*." It's like a collection of brightly-colored memoirs; it's genuine. You can think if you want, but Starwars seems to suggest connection more than critique. The art is something to



connect to; critique at your own risk.

Even the medium—wood-cut on linoleum—comes from a personal place. Sean Starwars and I share an affinity for skateboard culture, and pros like Mark Gonzales made an impression on him with their dual skateboarding/art-creating personas from an early age. That was his 'sticking point:' he found his life's passion during a college art class and the woodcut making process.

I think it's appropriate that Starwars visits col-

leges all over the US and speaks with young people. His method of creating good art is like a metaphor for the lives of students. "Keep trying, something will stick." That's his plan for creating good art, and I think that's many of our plans for living a meaningful life. We hope that if we keep trying and keep exploring our possibilities, eventually something will stick and resonate within us. It's a good thing Sean Starwars is here—he and his art are proof of that.

ARTIST SPOTLIGHT: BREANNA SPEED

BY REILY COOK

Salvador Dali twisting his mustache: it's a famous photograph of the surrealist painter who made a lucrative career of out of painting taffy-melted clocks and worlds seen through the eyes of the coming Timothy Leary age. But what you don't see in that image of the painter is the near-reflection of a malformed elephant in one bugged-out eye. You don't see the two ends of his thin mustache bending across each other to create the symbol of the infinite, a befitting nod to the sorts of thoughts and images going through the surrealist's head. Only Breanna Speed captures these details of Dali. The photograph shows him how he was; Breanna's portrait shows him how he is.

Breanna is a Shreveport native and Centenary senior. Her major is Studio Art. And she's interested in faces. Like she's done with Dali (seen at: society6.com/BreannaSpeedArtwork), she wants to capture the emotion and character of her subjects through portrait. And because of her affinity for the saturated colors of pop art (responsible for Warhol's eccentricity), she wants to capture those emotions in as bright and bold a way as possible. With colors as loud as the subject might want to scream and shadows as secretive as his most reserved qualities. "God has given you a face, and you make yourself another," Shakespeare wrote. Well, Breanna is intent on finding where these two faces align and bringing it alive in her dramatic, pop art style.

Breanna is very much aware of the changing times for artists of all sorts. "We're at a point where art is mobile. It's no longer contained to the gallery. It's on t-



shirts, in magazines, all over the internet," she says. Go to New York and you'll even find it on the walls. Breanna understands. In fact, from the moment Breanna found her love for art, she had joined the artistic evolution. "I started drawing everywhere—on my walls, on my bed," she says laughing. Baby steps I'm sure that Banksy and his colleagues identify with.

Her subjects tend to be celebrities—a common pop art sentiment. "I grew up in that age of Britney Spears and N'Sync," she says. Breanna picked up on the movement of the cultural milieu at a young age and has adapted along with it. Now, her artwork is available on throw-pillows and t-shirts, something Van Gogh or Pollock could never have done in their time, and some would argue never would have done. It seems almost perverse, a violation of the tradition of the canvas, but Breanna knows better. Today's world is a free-lance world and the market is wide-open thanks to the global possibilities of the internet. Once, art seemed above consumerism. Now, it's intrinsically linked to it.

Where the internet will take us in the future no one can know for sure. How we distribute works of art in terms of music has already changed drastically. Visual art could be next on the digital age's hit list. But Breanna is excited for this unknown future that threatens classical distribution models. By the way she talks about her future as a promoter and curator of art, I think she has every reason to be.

Breanna has a senior show coming up in March. You can also check out much of her work on her Society6 page. Expect lively portraits hanging from the walls of the Meadows Museum. It may even seem like the eyes of the portraits are following you, as they once did to Scooby-Doo and the gang. But don't be afraid; they're only portraits. In the capable hands of Breanna Speed, I can't blame you for looking twice.

WOMEN'S FEBRUARY TRENDS

BY HANNAH STILL

As we begin our spring semester here at Centenary, new beginnings seem to be the theme echoing through every residence hall. One way to up your confidence so that you can continue to meet your resolutions is to dress in a way that makes you happy. If you don't know where to start, below are some awesome fashion trends the *Conglomerate* has picked up on this month.

Draping cardigans: Even though springtime is almost here at Centenary, staying warm is still important. One way to achieve this warmth while almost looking cute and casual is to try out a draping cardigan. They often are long and look similar to a scarf draped around the shoulders, but still have the functionality of a cardigan. They come in a variety of colors and patterns, and can be found on almost any online boutique. They also look great on any size or shape, so everyone can follow this trend if they so please.

Wire-wrapped crystal necklaces: Many people believe that raw crystals, such as quartz and amethyst, have special healing powers and promote positivity in one's life. Others believe they're just pretty rocks. Whichever side you take, you can still follow this trend. Wire-wrapped crystal pendants are most often hand-made, so if you'd like to go mining you could even make them yourself using some jewelry wire. They're customizable and look great when layered with other jewelry, and they go with pretty much everything.

Red Lips: Okay, okay. This one is a no brainer. But

we at the *Conglomerate* had to mention this one considering the fierceness it gives to any and every look. A red lip looks great on everyone, as long as you find the right shade to go with your skin tone. Warmer skin tones should go with a more orange toned red, while for lighter skin tones we suggest blue-toned reds. It looks great with a classic pin up look or a more subtle, neutral eye. Choosing a matte shade can add extra edge to your look, while if you're looking for a softer tint picking out a sheer lip stain will be your best bet. Whatever you choose, people will always pay attention to what you say because they can't help but look at your beautiful mouth.

We at the *Conglomerate* hope that you enjoy these trends, and want our readers to know that these are just suggestions. Being "fashionable" isn't the most important thing; what's important is that you feel comfortable and beautiful in your own skin. These are just some suggestions to help you achieve that feeling of comfort, if it is what makes you feel beautiful!



BATTLE OF THE BANDS, 2014

BY REILY COOK

We've all seen it. We see it every day. It's The Shell—the big white quarter-sphere plopped down in the middle of campus like some misplaced project from Roosevelt's public works program. We all know what it's meant for, but we scratch our heads—after first appearing on campus—and wonder. "What the hell's this used for?"

But then, one night a year, our questions are answered. It's not answered with trumpets or angelic harp strings like a divine message. No, it's answered with loud guitars and drums. It's the Battle of the Bands.

One day a year, Centenary's campus invites local and regional musical talent to display their abilities in a competition. A battle. A Battle of the Bands. Guitars, amps, and drums fill the typically empty shell and blast loud noise as far as East Olive Street and beyond. If you live in Sexton, Hardin, or James, count yourself lucky—you get a front row seat without ever leaving your dormitory. Not that you want a front seat. But that's part of the fun; music blasts in a grand-scale parody of the classic mother-daughter bout of "Turn that dang music down!"

But you can't turn it down. Sorry Mom.

Did the men funding Centenary's Shell anticipate its main use to come once a year in the form of a rock, folk, and other music performance? Probably not, but we thank them anyway. We also thank KSCL, whose responsibility it is to host the event. They recruit some of the finest musical talents in the region and only accept the upper echelon of music greatness. They also recruit an eclectic mix; you'll find rock, folk, indie—all kinds of music at the event.

Organizer Jacob is hesitant to reveal the list of performers, but he notes that he is quite stoked. For all intents and purposes, this means you should be stoked too. Let your stokedness intensify and finally culminate in an incredible release of energy on March 29th, the Saturday and selected date of this yearly event, a proud Centenary contribution to the arts. But perhaps you won't need a reminder. You'll hear the bands soon enough.



ARTSY & ALTERNATIVE: KSCL RADIO

BY HANNAH STILL



Centenary takes pride in its radio station, 91.3 KSCL Radio. However, not many students know much about our beloved station unless they've worked for it. As a devout listener of KSCL, I decided to catch up with the manager of the station, Centenary's own Nick Carroll to find out more about the station.

KSCL is the only station in the Shreveport area that offers a taste of alternative music, a big change compared to the other stations we hear, which often play the same things over and over again. You won't find that at KSCL, because the alternative music genre can mean anything from quiet indie rock to face-melting, experimental dubstep and house music. Any and all types of

music are allowed to be played on the air, as long as they are not too obscene and meet the censorship requirements. Sometimes I tune in and even hear foreign music, which means the station is all-inclusive and open minded. KSCL is the only public radio station in the Shreveport area, and since it's run mainly by college kids, this is pretty impressive. The goal of KSCL is "to provide the Shreveport area with music unlike any other radio station". According to Carroll, anybody can be a part of the KSCL team and everyone is encour-

aged to come to their weekly meetings every Tuesday at six, which are held on the top floor of the SUB in the KSCL lounge. Carroll told the *Conglomerate* that being a part of the KSCL team is both fun and provides a service to the community, and anybody is welcome to come join the KSCL team.

Here at Centenary we are lucky to have such an interesting and different radio station to sport our name. So, next time you're in the car jamming some tunes, support your school and give 91.3 a listen. The first song might not be your cup of tea, but keep listening; the station is full of variety and is sure to spark your interest!

ADDY AWARDS HONORS STUDENTS, STAFF

BY REILY COOK

On February 15, 2014, the American Advertising Federation of Shreveport-Bossier hosted the ADDY Awards Gala in honor of creative excellence in advertising. Junior Emma Viskozki won two silver ADDY awards for her designs, and Sophomore Gina Vaca Loyola won a bronze ADDY award for hers, totaling three awards



THE BEATLES SHEA STADIUM CONCERT BY EMMA VISKOZKI



CITY AND COLOUR BY GINA VACA LOYOLA

for Centenary students. Professor Hawkins, Assistant Professor of Communication at Centenary and First Vice-President of the American Advertising Federation of Shreveport-Bossier, won a silver ADDY award.

Both students were very proud of their awards and their education. Referring to Professor Hawkins, Viskozki says, “She’s great with critiquing. Having one-on-one time with her in Design Communications was a great resource.”

Gina also had kind words for the Centenary communications and design programs. “Receiving an ADDY is not just a great honor to me as a new media communications student. It also recognizes that I am receiving an excellent design education at Centenary.” Gina went on to mention that the ADDY banquet created a great opportunity for her in networking, as many professionals (like Professor Hawkins) are recognized at the awards as well.

The year’s awards gala theme was The World is Watching You, capitalizing on the age of digital and social media marketing, where the work of advertising professionals is viewable by anyone, anywhere.

Since 1937, the American Advertising Federation of Shreveport-Bossier (AAFSB), formerly the Shreveport-Bossier Advertising Federation, has been dedicated to serving its members by promoting, protecting, and advancing the broad interests of advertising, including the freedom to truthfully advertise legal products.



COME TAKE A WALK ON THE WILD SIDE BY EMMA VISKOZKI

THANK YOU...

Thank you, brain, for replaying songs over and over so I can remember how much I hate them

Thank you, YouTube, for providing many blissful hours that could have been wasted on fruitless tasks like “studying” and “interacting with other people”

Thank you, leftover chicken, for letting me save food to throw away later.

Thank you, bookstore, for always carrying the one book I don’t need.

Thank you, Netflix. Without you, I would have had nothing to do at night except go to sleep, which would have been a complete waste of time.

Thank you, computer, for being perhaps the single most essential tool in modern business that no one knows how to use.

Thank you, cheeseburger, for shaving several years off my life that I don’t have to suffer through eating cheeseburgers.

Thank you, Mr. Rain Cloud, for always being there for me while I’m walking to class.

Thank you, politicians, for reminding us that no matter what side you’re on, everybody hates somebody for some reason.

Thank you, sports, for allowing people to strike it rich by playing a game.

ROBINSON: NOW PLAYING

THE WOLF OF WALL STREET

The Wolf of Wall Street Based on the true story of Jordan Belfort, from his rise to a wealthy stockbroker living the high life to his fall involving crime, corruption and the federal government.

THE PAST AFTER A SEPARATION

Ahmad (Ali Mosaffa) returns to Paris from Tehran to confront his estranged wife, Marie (Bérénice Bejo, “The Artist”). Director Asghar Farhadi’s “A Separation” won the 2012 Oscar for foreign language film.

AUGUST

Osage County A look at the lives of the strong-willed women of the Weston family, whose paths have diverged until a family crisis brings them back to the Oklahoma house they grew up in, and to the dysfunctional woman who raised them.